THE NEW
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US downs spy balloon, China warns of response

The United States shot down an alleged Chinese spy balloon off the US Atlantic coast on Saturday, but China voiced its strong dissatisfaction at the move and said it may make necessary response. The craft was targeted off the coast of South Carolina with a missile fired from an F-22 plane, Pentagon officials said. US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin called the operation a deliberate action that came in response to China's "unacceptable violation of our sovereignty." |P11

Government of India

NAVA KARNATAKA
FOR NAVA BHARAT

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Karnataka Marches Ahead
on Growth Path
under the Able Leadership
of Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Inauguration of **India Energy Week**,
Dedication of **HAL Helicopter Factory** to the Nation,
Unveiling of **Light Utility Helicopter**
and Foundation Stone Laying for
Tumakuru Industrial Township and **Jal Jeevan Mission Projects**
all worth over **Rs.2,750 Crore**

by **Shri Narendra Modi**
Hon'ble Prime Minister Of India

6 February 2023

Bengaluru: 11.30 am

India Energy Week
BIEC, Bengaluru

- A pre-eminent platform for experts in the traditional and non-traditional energy industry from around the world
- Showcases India as a global powerhouse for the energy transition
- Presents India as a hub that brings together the international energy industry
- Provides a unique opportunity for key decision-makers to expedite synergies between stakeholders and identify new growth opportunities

The Exhibition

- Participation by 1,000 exhibitors from over 50 countries
- National pavilion presentations from 15 countries
- A showcase of the latest products, services and solutions to help drive the energy industry forward
- Exhibitors include NOCs, NECs, IOCs and IECs, international service providers, EPC contractors, technology, service companies, utility companies, and financial organizations from across the oil, gas, alternative and renewable energy value chain

Tumakuru: 3.30 pm

HAL Helicopter Factory,
Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru

- India's largest Helicopter manufacturing facility
- Greenfield Helicopter Factory to manufacture Light Utility Helicopters (LUH) and Indian Multirole Helicopters (IMRH)
- Generates direct and indirect employment
- Boosts the aerospace manufacturing ecosystem in the region
- Supports skill and infrastructure development such as schools, colleges and residential areas
- Equipped with state-of-the-art Industry 4.0 tools and techniques for operations
- Spread across 615 acres of land

Tumakuru Industrial Township,
an Industrial Node on
Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor

- The project's vision is to create an "Advanced Technology-Centric Industrial Hub North of Bengaluru"
- Generates employment to over 90,000 people
- The project area is spread over 1,722 acres and is being implemented at a cost of Rs. 1,701 crore

Multi-Village Water Supply Schemes Under Jal Jeevan Mission in Tumakuru

Tiptur Taluk

Benefits

- Treated water for 1.86 lakh people from the Hemavathi River
- Sustainable pure drinking water for the benefit of 403 rural habitations (398 in Tiptur Taluk and enroute 5 habitations in Turuvekere Taluk)

- **Project cost:** Rs. 435 crore
- 12.93 MLD Water Treatment Plant
- MVS is designed for 30 years

Chikkanayaknahalli Taluk

Benefits

- Treated water for 47,000 people from the Boranakanive Reservoir
- Sustainable pure drinking water for the benefit of 147 rural habitations of Chikkanayakanahalli Taluk

- **Project cost:** Rs. 115 crore
- 3.17MLD Water Treatment Plant
- MVS is designed for 30 years

Watch the programs live on DD News

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice Bid No. GEM/2023/B/3037913
Dated : 30.01.2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Bangalore Division :	Rs. 17,03,15,310.34

Comprehensive Housekeeping work of Mechanized Coach Cleaning and watering activities of all PM/SM/PFTR Trains at Yesvantpur depot, OBHS for Primary trains of Yesvantpur Coaching Depots, Cleaning of pit-lines, IOH shed / Sick-Line, CDO/Office & other service Buildings at Coaching depot Yesvantpur for a period of Two years on outcome basis.

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 20:00 Hrs. on 20-02-2023
For details log on: https://gem.gov.in
Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer
PUB/644/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Bengaluru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 02/SBC/23 of 30-01-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	**Senior Divisional Engineer / N / Bengaluru Section :**	Rs. 1,82,41,337/-

Track and connected works including earthwork, rail buffer at Thondebhavi, Sri Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam, Rangepalli, Dodbele, Chikbanavar in connection with the work of Construction of track machine siding for a length of 420m at 6 major stations in Bengaluru Division. Composite work. Maintenance period is 6months or one monsoon period whichever is later for earth work only.

2	**Senior Divisional Engineer / N / Bengaluru Section :**	Rs. 1,66,31,863/-

Construction of Track machine rest room and water supply in connection with Track machine siding of minor station at Thondebhavi, Rangepalli, Dodbele, Chikbanavar and Chik Ballapur stations. Maintenance period is 12months.

3	**Senior Divisional Engineer / N / Bengaluru Section :**	Rs. 2,36,11,747/-

Replacement of stone slab bridges and minor girder bridges with RCC box (8nos out of 13nos.) in Bengaluru - Arsikere sections Viz Bridge no. 311 Up, 317 Up, 320 Up, 320 Dn, 321 Up, 321 Dn, 324 Up and 324 Dn in Bengaluru - Arsikere Section (8Nos). Maintenance period is 6months.

4	**Bengaluru Division: Senior Divisional Engineer / N / Bengaluru section:**	Rs. 1,91,01,843/-

Replacement of steel girder with PSC slab of size above 9.15m and up to 12.20m span bridges (4 bridges - 5 span Br. No. 490, 516B, 535 of DMM and 305A) of Tumakuru section. Maintenance period is 6months.

5	**Bengaluru - Tumakuru section:**	Rs. 2,43,87,291/-

Proposed culvert at Rly km 42/530 between Dodbele and Muddalinganahalli stations. Deposit work for underground water pipe line crossing 3.5m dia (OD) size of 1x5.50mx4.50m RCC Box by rolling in /launching method. Maintenance period is 6months.

6	**Bengaluru - Salem section: Sub Work - I :**	Rs. 4,68,86,934/-

Construction of RCC drain for a length of 7000m in connection with the work of CTR(P) for a length of 31.90kms from km 118/900-87/000 SL in DEN/S/SBC section. **Sub Work - II :** Construction of trolley refuge 93nos in connection with the work of CTR(P) for a length of 31.90kms from km 118/900-87/000 SL in DEN/S/SBC section. Maintenance period is 6months.

7	**Senior Divisional Engineer / S / Bengaluru Section : Sub Work - I :**	Rs. 96,60,304/-

Bengaluru - Salem section: TTR of existing 52kg curved switch & CMS crossing with 60kg thick web switch and WCMS 1 in 12 - 4nos, 1 in 8.5 curved switch and CMS crossing - 2nos and trap switch - 2nos. (8 sets). **Sub Work - II :** Bengaluru Division: Construction of track machine siding for a length of 420m at 15 minor stations in Bengaluru Division at Nelamangala (530m length), Yediyur (310m length) and Shravanabelagola (320m length).

8	**KSR Bengaluru :**	Rs. 3,97,31,865/-

Proposed quick watering facility at KSR Bengaluru station of 4 lines at PF-10, in between PF 9 and 8, in between PF-7 and 6 and PF-5. Maintenance period is 6months.

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 21-02-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination
PUB/643/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Bengaluru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the property bearing **Sy No. 110/3,** Taralu Village, Uttarahalli Hobali, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring to an extent of 2 acre is under litigation in before the Assistant Commissioner of Bengaluru South Sub Division in case No. RA/SOU-610/2022, said property is belongs to Mr. Xavier.C S/o Late Chowraju, Aged about 55 years and his family and one Mr. Anthonappa A and Francis A are trying to deal with the third persons inrespect of our above said property without having any rights over the same. Hence this public notice.

Schedule

East by : Sy No. 109 property,
West by : Sy No.113 property,
North by: Sy No. 110/1 property,
South by: Sy No. 110/2 property,
This notice is issued in the public interest by,

Xavier C
S/o Chowraju R/at, No.583:389, 3rd block, Kurubara Beedhi, Somanahalli Village, Bengaluru South - 560082
Mob. 9980550052

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my Client Mrs. Sukanya, W/o Late Govardhana Reddy, aged about 42 years, residing at Panathur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru do hereby state that I am revoking the General Power of Attorney dated 17.01.2011 which is registered in the office of the Sub Registrar Varthur, Bangalore as Document No. VRT 4 00021-2011-12 stored in CD No. VRTD107 dated 13.04.2011executed by me in favour of M/s Green Fortune Promoters and Developers Pvt. Ltd., No. 60, Nirmal Farms, Ravi Nagar, Susgaon, Tal Mulshi, Pune. 411025 represented by its authorised representative Mr. Narasimha Murthy P, S/o Puttappa Pasupulathi to deal with my property Sy. No. 264/1, situated at Amani Bellandur Khane, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk measuring 19 Guntas and bounded on the

East by: Property belonging to Guntappaiah
West by: Property belonging to Shambhog Inamti Property **North by:** Property belonging in Doddakunte Muniswamy
South by: Property belonging to kaverananja.

Hence M/s Green Fortune Promoters and Developers Pvt. Ltd. is hereby informed not to enter into any transactions in respect to the above said property belonging to me. Inspite of this notice any transaction made by M/s Green Fortune Promoters and Developers Pvt. Ltd. shall not be binding on me.

Mrs. Sukanya, W/o Late Govardhana Reddy, aged about 42 years, residing at Panathur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru.

P. M. MATHEW Advocate
9. 1st Floor, Devanga Hostel Road. Next to Vokkaligara Bhavan, Bengaluru-560027
Mob -9481370158

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have entered into transaction for purchase of the property mentioned in the schedule below with Miss. Priyadarshini D/o Rajesh R/o No. 344, Athmiya Geleyara Balaga Layout, 6th C Cross, Opposite Sapthagiri Medical College, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore-560 090.

Now the public is hereby notified that if any persons/institutions have got any claims in respect of the schedule property are hereby requested to forward their claims with copies of the supporting documents to the undermentioned address within FIFTEEN days from today. If no claims are received within the said period my client will proceed and conclude the transaction as if there are no claims from any persons.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the immovable house property being constructed on the Site bearing No. 344 in the 3rd Stage Layout formed by Athmiya Geleyara Balaga House Building Co-Operative Society Layout formed with approval of BDA in the lands bearing Survey No. 9, 10/1, 10/2, 10/3, 10/4, 11/1, 11/2, 12/1, 21/2, 13, 14/1, 14/2, 14/3, 14/4, 14/6, 16/1, 16/2, 16/3, 17, 18, 19, 21/1, 21/2, 21/3, 21/4, 21/5, 21/6, 22, 23, 49 and 50 of Chikkasandra Village, Yeshavanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk now coming in the jurisdiction of Ward No. 12- Shettyhalli of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Bangalore measuring East to West 50 Feet or 15.24 Metres North to South 80 Feet or 24.38 metres having the building of 1800 Square Feet with all civic amenities and bounded on the;

East by : Site No. 345, **West by :** Site No. 343, **North by :** 40 Feet Road, **South by:** Site No. 361.

VEERENDRA PATIL, Advocate
Amareshwar Nilaya, No.20-A/19, 7th Main, 4th Block, Rajajainagar, Bangalore-10.
Phone: 080-23143537
Bangalore Date: 04-02-2023

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (DRT II)

LIC Jeevan Mangal Building Residency Road at Bengaluru

O.A. No. 1288/2021

BETWEEN: Canara Bank ...APPLICANT
AND : M/s. Prasiddi Designs and Others ...DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANTS THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION.

To, **Mr. Chowde Gowda,** S/o Mr. Shivaramegowda, No. 13/9, 2nd Cross, Behind Bharath Gas, K V Layout, Byrasandra, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011.

WHEREAS, the Applicant bank has filed application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against you for the recovery of sum of **Rs. 32,73,684.57/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Six Hundred And Eighty Four And Paisa Fifty Seven Only)** along with current and future interest and other reliefs. You are required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of summons **on or before 02.03.2023 at 10.30 AM** in the forenoon in person or by a pleader / advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed should not be granted.

Take notice that in default of appearance on the day mentioned herein above the proceedings will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the with the seal of this Tribunal this 16th day of November 2022 at Bengaluru.

Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal - II

Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited

(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN :U70100KA2015SGC081817
Karnataka One State, Many worlds — Department of Tourism
4th Floor, Embassy Icon, Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560001, Ph. 080- 22352525

No. KTIL/YO-1/Ka.Vi/Ka.Ji/04/2022-23 **Date: 03.02.2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System through e-Procurement Only)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited (KTIL), Bangalore invites tender for the works as per standard tender document KW-3 from eligible contractors through e-Procurement.

Name of the Work and Notification Number : **"Construction of Yathrinivas & Development of Infrastructure facilities at Shri Prabhulingeshwara Swamy Temple, In Jawali-D Village, Aland Taluk, Kalaburagi District." Notification No: KTIL/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT25, Dated : 03.02.2023** Amount Put to Tender: **Rs.79.75 Lakhs**, E.M.D Amount: **Rs.1.60 Lakhs**, Time Table : Last date for Submission: **17.02.2023, 5.00 PM** Opening date for - Technical Bid : **20.02.2023. 11.00AM.**

Postponement of Calendar of events (if any), subsequent notification, addendum. corrigendum, will be communicated only through c-Procurement portal **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** For more information regarding the tender, bidders may contact the undersigned during office hours or visit e-Procurement portal **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited

DIPR/CP/4477/Zen/2022-23

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TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM

e-Procurement Notice IFB Nos.94/2022-23, 95/2022-23 Dt.30.11.2022 (2nd Call) & 175/2022-23 to 183/2022-23 Dt.06.02.2023,

Tender for total 11 works under various works are invited in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam and LLC Division, Ballari through `e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	06.02.2023 at 11.00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time :	21.02.2023 at 3.00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time :	21.02.2023 at 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage : (IFB No.176 & 183)	21.02.2023 at 6.00 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage : (IFB No.94, 95 (2nd Call), 175 & 177 to 182))	21.02.2023 at 6.00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage : (IFB No.175)	23.02.2023 at 11.00 AM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage* : (IFB Nos.177 to 182)	23.02.2023 at 11.00 AM
Date of opening of TQ Stage: IFB No.94, 95 (2nd Call) &177 to 182))	23.02.2023 at 3.00 PM

Further details can be seen @ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
* **Commencement of Reverse Tendering**

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam
Ph: 08394-259114
Fax: 08394-259167

ತುಮಕೂರು ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ–206, ಬಿ.ಹೆಚ್.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಲ್ಲಸಂದ್ರ, ತುಮಕೂರು–572 107.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ತುಹಾಒ/ಇಂಜಿ/ಇನ್ಸೂರೆನ್ಸ್/ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.01.2023

ಇ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ತುಮಕೂರು ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟವು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಇ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖೇನ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟಿ (Technical and Financial) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು www eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ. ನಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು
1	KMF/2022-23/BD/ WORK_ INDENT	ತುಮಕೂರು ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಪೀಠೋಪಕರಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ (MBD & FIRE) ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಇನ್ಸೂರೆನ್ಸ್ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ ನೀಡುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ.
ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ: 11,70,000=00		
ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ: 1,000=00		
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.02.2023 ರಿಂದ 20.02.2023 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ		
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು (Cover-1) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.02.2023 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ		

ವಿ.ಸೂ: ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿಯಂತರ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸ್ಥಳ: ತುಮಕೂರು

ತುಮಕೂರು ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಪರವಾಗಿ,
ಸಹಿ/–
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
E-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
Bid No. BMRCL/PD/land/Consultancy Services/2023/1
Date: 06.02.2023

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICTION

Sub: Consultancy services for assessment of demand, market, financial feasibility and detailed analysis, site suitability for various land parcels located at S.V. Road, Mysore road and Banashankari metro stations of BMRCL.

In order to increase non-fare box revenue through PPP model, BMRCL invites Proposals for consultancy services through an open competitive bidding process for the land near the following metro stations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Metro Station/Location
1	SV Road
2	Mysore Road (North)
3	Mysore Road (South)
4	Banashankari

The Tender Document can be purchased from the BMRCL's Corporate Office against non- refundable Bid document fee of **Rs. 10,000/-** only, payable by way of DD in favour of "Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited", payable at Bengaluru or Bidder can purchase through online by visiting BMRCL website. Sale of Tender Document is from **06.02.2023 to 28.02.2023 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.** Site visits from **06.02.2023 to 28.02.2023.** Pre-bid meeting is scheduled on **28.02.2023.** Date and time of Bid Submission is on **09.03.2023 up to 3:00 pm.** For more information, please contact 080- 22969274 or e-mail us to **pdland@bmrc.co.in** or login to the BMRCL website **www.bmrc.co.in**

Sd/- Executive Director (C&AM)

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
G20 भारत 2023 INDIA

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to take part in the Summit or at Event Venue UPGIS Ground, Sector 15, Vrindavan Yojna, Lucknow from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

If you are an Investor Click on
https://invest.up.gov.in/investorcrm/welcome/registration
for filling your investment intent

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Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.
Invest UP

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

CENTRE BLOCKS 232 FOREIGN APPS

The apps, some of them Chinese, allegedly facilitated betting, gambling and unauthorised loan services, according to sources

The apps posed a threat to India's economic stability, an offcial said. They had materials "prejudicial to the sovereignty" of the country

The ban comes amid complaints of extortion by representatives of lending apps with links to China | P12

SASTRA PRESENTS THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS THINKEDU CONCLAVE

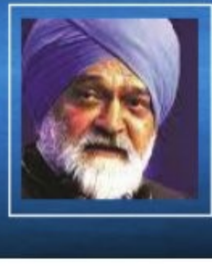
FEBRUARY 9-10,2023 10:00AM ONWARDS

50 STAR SPEAKERS | 2 DAYS | 16 INTENSE HOURS

ITC GRAND CHOLA CHENNAI

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN
UNION MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

UU LALIT
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA



MONTEK SINGH AHLUWALIA
FORMER DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMISSION OF INDIA

KRIS GOPALAKRISHNAN
CHAIRMAN, AXILOR VENTURES

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PM to dedicate chopper facility near Tumakuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) new greenfield helicopter factory at Bidarehallakaval at Nittur near Tumakuru in Karnataka at 3.30 pm on Monday. He had laid the foundation stone for the project in 2016. But there will be no flypast at the event as certain parameters are yet to be met, sources said.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, it is yet another step towards Atma Nirbharta in the defence sector which will enhance capacity and ecosystem to build helicopters at Asia's largest helicopter manufacturing facility. Initially, the unit will manufacture the Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), which is an indigenously designed and developed 3-tonne class, single-engine, multipurpose utility helicopter with unique features of high manoeuvrability. CONTINUED ON: P6

ARCHITECT OF KARGIL WAR, MUSHARRAF DIES

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

FORMER Pakistan ruler General Pervez Musharraf survived many assassination attempts but succumbed to a rare disease on Sunday.

He was 79 and suffering from amyloidosis, an incurable disease that occurs when an abnormal protein called amyloid builds up in organs. He had been undergoing treatment at a hospital in Dubai.

Musharraf, a cunning military officer who was the architect of the 1999 Kargil war, was living in self-imposed exile in the UAE to avoid criminal charges back home. In December 2019, a special court had handed him a death sentence in a treason case. However, the sentence was nullified later by a higher court.

Born in Delhi, Musharraf rose to prominence when he was made a four star general and the head of armed forces in 1998 by the then Pak prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

He led the Kargil infiltration that brought India and

PERVEZ MUSHARRAF
11 AUGUST 1943 • 5 FEBRUARY 2023

Pakistan to the verge of a full-fledged war in 1999. This strained relations with Sharif, who finally dismissed him. However, the wily general overthrew the Sharif-led government in a bloodless coup and took over as the 10th president of Pakistan in 2001.

During seven years in office, Muharraf oversaw a stint of economic growth while dodging three assassination attempts.

His visit to India in 2001 for the Agra summit led to one of the most significant meetings between leaders of the two countries. P11

RBI to hike rate by 25 bps before pausing: Experts

Softening retail inflation to weigh in February 6-8 MPC meeting

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

AS the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India is set to meet during February 6-8 to decide the benchmark lending rates, most experts see another 25 basis-point (bps) increase in the short-term repo rates.

However, some see chances of a 'pause' in rate hike given the slowing down of inflation, and recessionary outlook going forward.

The banking regulator has been on a rate hike spree since May 2022 when it increased the repo rate, the rate at which RBI offers short-term loans to banks, by 40 bps for the first time in two years. Ever since, it has jacked up the repo rate by 225 bps in all.

As for retail inflation, it has moderated after peaking at 7.8% in April 2022. Inflation fell to 5.88% in November and 5.72% in December, going below RBI's upper tolerance level of 6% and giving hope that the rate hike cycle is likely to end.

However, most experts now feel the MPC won't let its guard down against inflation and will go ahead with a hike before hitting the pause button.

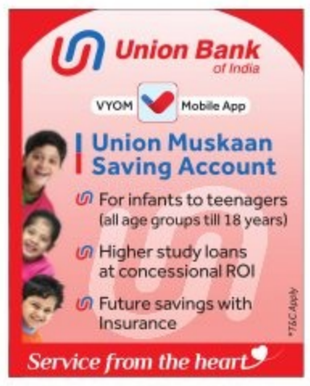
"We believe RBI is at the end of its policy tightening cycle. A combination of rate hikes and liquidity normalisation has already resulted in an effective tightening in policy rates by nearly 300 bps, and we expect a final 25 bps hike in the February 8 policy meeting to 6.50%," says a note from Nomura, a global financial services group. Nomura expects RBI to take a pause after February, and even start cutting interest rates from August 2023.

Yuvika Singhal, economist with QuantEco Research, also says RBI will raise the repo rate by 25 bps before pausing.

"At this week's meeting, we are looking at possibly one last rate hike by the RBI MPC in its current hiking cycle," says Sreejith Balasubramanian, economist at IDFC AMC.

The 225 bps hike in repo rates since May 2022 has seen both lending as well as bank deposit rates going up significantly. Home loans are now attracting over 9% interest from the lows of 6.5% last year. Bank deposit rates have also gone up, albeit at a slower pace, to 7-7.5% for 2-5 year tenure.

According to Pankaj Pathak, fund manager (fixed income) at Quantum AMC, there could be a pause in the February MPC given the ease in external factors and inflation, and growth in the central bank's foreign exchange reserves over the past few months.


Union Bank of India
VYOM Mobile App
Union Muskaan Saving Account
For infants to teenagers (all age groups till 18 years)
Higher study loans at concessional ROI
Future savings with Insurance
Service from the heart

EXPRESS READ

No privatisation of power supply: Min

Bengaluru: Union Minister for Power RK Singh said the government is not looking at privatising distribution of power, but creating a platform so that consumers get power supply at affordable rates. P4

Two workers die inside STP of apartment

Bengaluru:: Two workers died of asphyxiation inside an STP of an apartment on Kanakapura Road on Saturday night. Police have registered a case against five people, including the management of the apartment. P7

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

G20 भारत 2023 INDIA वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

Assam Welcomes

Delegates of

Y20 भारत 2023 INDIA

Inception Meeting

The Y20 Inception Meeting in Guwahati, Assam, India held on the sidelines of the G20.

Themes of Y20:

- **Peace Building and Reconciliation:** Ushering in an Era of No War
- **Future of Work Industry 4.0:** Innovation and 21st Century Skills
- **Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction:** Sustainability a way of life
- **Shared Future:** Youth in Democracy and Governance
- **Health, Wellbeing and Sports:** Agenda for Youth

Dates: 6th to 8th February 2023 | Place: Guwahati, Assam

G20 Members

ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, CHINA, FRANCE, GERMANY, INDIA, INDONESIA, ITALY, JAPAN, MEXICO, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, RUSSIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SOUTH AFRICA, TÜRKIYE, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, EUROPEAN UNION

Guest Countries

BANGLADESH, EGYPT, MAURITIUS, NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, OMAN, SINGAPORE, SPAIN, UAE

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 06/02/2023 • Year: Shubhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Prathami 12.58 am
Nakshatra: Ashlesha 2.16 pm • Mesha in Simha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 16°C | MAX 31°C
FORECAST
Partly cloudy

Sunrise 6.45 am
Sunset 6.22 pm
Moonrise 6.58 pm
Moonset 7.11 am

Not privatising escoms, only allowing competition, says Singh

To make power supply affordable, supply chain needs to be addressed, adds power minister

Union Minister for Power R K Singh at the inauguration of the First Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh said here on Sunday that the government is not looking at privatising distribution of power, but creating a platform to foster competition so that consumers get quality power supply at affordable rates.

On the first day of the three-day First Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting, as part of the G20 Summit, Singh said that at present, power supply remains with escoms (electric supply companies), while a parliamentary committee is working on amending laws to allow private players to supply power that will give consumers a choice. He said the grid belongs to the Central government, while the distribution rests with state governments. To make power supply more affordable, the supply chain that is an issue needs to be addressed.

Even as the ministry is emphasising on green energy, the dependence on coal cannot be completely eliminated until there is an adequate and viable storage mechanism for renewable energy, he said. "I am not going to compromise on the availability of energy as it is required for the country's growth. India is growing at 7 per cent and we will grow at 9-11 per cent. We shall provide energy wherever it comes from. If not coal, then gas, but the latter generates methane which is worse," he pointed out.

He said the challenges ahead are offshore wind power, green hydrogen, strengthening battery storage and grid strengthening.

He said India is the only major economy in the top five in the Global Climate Change Performance Index. Since the target of 40 per cent power generation from renewable sources by 2030 was already achieved in November 2021, the new target set is to produce 500 gigawatts of power from renewable energy sources by 2030. The plan is to generate 6 million tonnes of green hydrogen energy, which will require an installed capacity of 1,50,000 megawatt, he said.

Carbon capture utilisation and storage focus at ETWG

Participants in the first Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting, as a part of the G20 Summit, on Sunday stressed upon the storage of power. At the seminar on Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), delegates discussed various options and modes on available technologies to ensure that the net zero goal is achieved. The study Report on CCUS - Technology Gaps and International Collaboration was also released. Dr V K Saraswat, Member of NITI Aayog; Alok Kumar, Secretary, Union Ministry of Power; Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC Ltd; Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya, Director, Project, NTPC Ltd stressed on the importance of technologies. All of the dignitaries emphasised upon several important carbon dioxide emission mitigation measures and key green initiatives being spearheaded by India. Over 200 dignitaries, speakers, panellists and delegates from various countries participated in the seminar, where they shared their knowledge and ideas pertaining to CCUS.

'No energy transition without investments'

ENS @ Bengaluru

"THE price of energy storage is four times higher than energy production. The whole world is talking about transitioning to renewable energy sources, but is not making investments," said Union Minister for Power RK Singh, here on Sunday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the First Energy Transition Working Group, which India is heading as part of the G20 summit, Singh called upon countries to invest in energy transition and storage. "But the whole energy discourse will be incomplete without investments. As we move towards renewable energy sources, we should invest in energy storage," he added. Without investing in storage, round-the-clock electricity supply cannot be achieved. "Solar and wind energy sources are available only at certain hours of the day, which makes electricity supply intermittent. Grid instability can be overcome by energy-storing projects," he added.

The discourse has to move along with energy security and focus on the supply chain. It has to share technology and help provide universal access to clean energy and make the planet healthier, he added.

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi called upon developed countries to support developing countries with investments in R&D and deployment of clean energy technologies. "There is a need for international cooperation and collaboration to achieve universal access to clean energy and a just, affordable and inclusive energy transition. India is increasing its share of renewable energy in its energy mix and has set ambitious targets for increasing renewable energy capacity. India has launched several policies and initiatives aimed at promoting energy efficiency and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. The policies include the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the National Solar Mission," he said.

First day of energy meeting delves into green hydrogen CoE, bio-fuel alliance

ENS @ Bengaluru

MINISTRY of Power Secretary Alok Kumar said the first Energy Transitions Working Group meeting of the Indian G20 Presidency concluded successfully. Speaking to reporters on Sunday, he said all proceedings of the first meeting had been concluded and the suggestions and recommendations given by the different study groups had been met with enthusiasm and support.

"The recommendations given to the working group in addressing technology gaps in the five high-priority technologies -- electrolysers, fuel cells, carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS), Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage, and steam methane reforming (SMR), were met with good support. There was a consensus that promoting international collaboration in these priority areas will accelerate the development and commercialisation of these technologies," he said.

He stated that the possible launch of 20 per cent blending of ethanol may also be announced as part of the India Energy Week, and also said that there was large-scale support for a bio-fuel alliance with countries like Indonesia, Brazil and the US which specialise in biofuels. "India has projected two fuels - bio-fuels and green hydrogen - which will be important in ensuring clean energy supply in the future. India has done quite well in promoting ethanol blending, with 10 per cent blending has been achieved, which will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions five months ahead of time. Monday may also bring the possible announcement of 20 per cent blending as part of the India Energy Week," he said.

He also stated that there would be a possibility for evolving a Centre of Excellence to promote green hydrogen in the country. "We intend to evolve principles for high-level international collaboration with regards to green hydrogen," he said. Meanwhile, the Power Ministry has signed an MoU with Malaysia to improve its street lights.

With the last stretch of new road from Srirangapatna to Mysuru opening to the public on Saturday, the much-awaited Bengaluru-Mysuru highway is all set for inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

B'luru-Mysuru expressway to officially open next month

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH the Srirangapatna bypass opening to the public last week, the much-awaited Bengaluru-Mysuru highway is all set for inauguration and it will likely be done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has expanded the National Highway 275, including the expressway, to a 10-lane road. The 117-km highway -- from the NICE entrance in Bengaluru to Ring Road junction in Mysuru -- is expected to cut travel time from an average of three hours to just 90 minutes.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha said it will be officially inaugurated in March first week by Modi. Most parts of the stretch are already open and vehicles, including KSRTC buses, are taking close to two hours.

The quantum of toll has not been fixed yet, but collection is likely to start this month as motorists are already using the road. "We were waiting for the bypasses at Mandya and Srirangapatna to open, which has been done now," sources from NHAI said.

In March 2014, the Union Ministry of Surface Transport had announced some roads across the country would be upgraded to National Highways and Bengaluru-Mysuru stretch was one of them. The estimated cost of the project in 2014 was Rs 4,100 crore, which has doubled now.

Metro zooms at 80 kmph on Whitefield-KR Puram route

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE first train to run at 80 kmph on the stretch between Whitefield and K R Puram Metro Stations zipped through smoothly on Sunday afternoon, marking a significant step towards the proposed commissioning of Metro operations on this Purple Line extension by March.

Metro officials told TNIE that the 13-km stretch was covered within 12 minutes at this maximum permissible speed. High-speed trial runs commenced from 11 am. Nearly 50 officials of the BMRCL, including those from Rolling Stock, Signalling, Traction and Track teams, were on board the train when it touched 80 kmph.

"The run was done without stoppages at any of the 10 stations between the terminating stations. So, a few more minutes would get added to it when actual operations commence. The exact time that would be taken between the two end points would be clear only after the service trial runs begin on February 11," a top official said.

Elaborating on the speed trials, another official said that three round trips (Whitefield to KR Puram and back) were conducted between 11 am and 3.30 pm. "Until Saturday, trains were being run only up to 25 kmph. We ran the first trip at 40 kmph, the second one at 60 kmph, and the final one was done at 80 kmph. We tested all safety parameters during the runs and carried out checks at the platforms too," he explained.

BMRCL is at the fag-end of the commissioning of operations on this line, the official said, adding, "Multiple train trials, service trials and inspection by Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety are in line."

Hi-speed trial run of a Metro train in progress on the Whitefield-KR Puram route in Bengaluru on Sunday

Five trains are expected to be deployed with a 10-minute frequency. The stations that will dot this new line are Whitefield, Channasandra, Kadugodi, Pattandur Agrahara, Sadarmangala, Nallurhalli, Kundalahalli, Sitharama Palya, Hoodi Junction, Garudacharpalya, Saraswati Nagar, and K R Puram.

Transport workers want demands met, threaten strike

ENS @ Bengaluru

WITH no response from the state government on wage revision and 15 other demands, transport workers of four corporations - KSRTC, BMTC, NWKSRTC, and KKSRTC - might go on strike on short notice.

The AITUC-affiliated KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation in support of five other unions under the banner Joint Action Committee has written a letter again to CM Basavaraj Bommai on February 4 to fulfil their 16 demands that includes wage revision. They said elections are round the corner and if the model code of conduct comes into force, the government cannot fulfil their demands till the polls are over. "Transport Minister B Sriramulu said he will arrange a meeting with Bommai and our demands will be fulfilled. However, the meeting has not happened and our demands are not met," said Vijay Bhaskar D A, General Sectary, KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation (affiliated to AITUC).

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

06TH February : Mercury is still passing through exceptional regions of the sky, encouraging a rational approach to all problems - in the best possible sense. What I mean by that is that all ideas, offers and invitations should be treated with a touch of scepticism. After all, what looks true today may seem different tomorrow!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
This is not an astounding day from the planetary point of view, which means that you may set your own course. One word of advice is to allow yourself as much time as you need for the occasional quiet day-dream. And soon, of course, you'll spring into action, surprising everyone.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The social dimension is important, indicating that, even in matters in which you've previously done quite well by yourself, you should now consider asking for help. In the final analysis, you might need no more than moral support. You may be able to achieve everything else by yourself.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may give first place to worldly ambitions, but make sure they're mixed with a healthy portion of idealism. The plain fact is that, for some reason, self-interest is often served best if you do what's best for others. But, then, life's strange like that sometimes!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Pleasant emotional influences should help you chill out. In plain English this means that you may relax and count your blessings! On a purely superficial level, you can sort out legal affairs and travel plans, and make sure that the relevant instructions are absolutely clear.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You may pay a little extra attention to joint finances, especially if domestic duties are spiralling out of control. However, there are few indications of worldly stress today, and many powerful suggestions that you can sail off into a private dream world.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You may make social plans and celebrations a priority, and listen carefully to whatever close partners say, as even if their words are apparently nonsense, there is a deeper meaning which could do you a great deal of good. You also stand to benefit from chance events, so keep alert to the ebb and flow of fate.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
One very interesting and rare planetary aspect reveals the possibility of great generosity. It is, however, unclear as to whether you will be parting with your money or receiving someone else's support. The first option would seem more likely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
There are ways and means in which friends can be of great help. In fact, there is one person who could be more helpful than you ever thought possible. It may be time to ask others to tell you the truth, no matter how uncomfortable. You will know what to do when you get the message.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
For some of you it will be pleasant to stay at home, safe within the domestic womb. For others, it will be money that's important and, if you're in the housing market or otherwise dealing with property, events could move in a highly satisfactory direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Sometimes your life is just not your own! Partners will demand your attention even more than in the past. However, if you can manage to make a subtle shift in your perceptions, you should start to pay less attention to loved ones' words - and more to their actions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Money can buy your dreams, but only to a certain extent. This is why it will help if you continue to be as practical as you have learnt to be so far this year. You are living in this world of the here-and-now, not in some other mysterious dimension.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
With lunar alignments solidly on your side you have the advantage today, but only just. The way to achieve your goals is to be spontaneous, creative and young at heart. Something you did when you were much younger, might now hold the key to future action.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

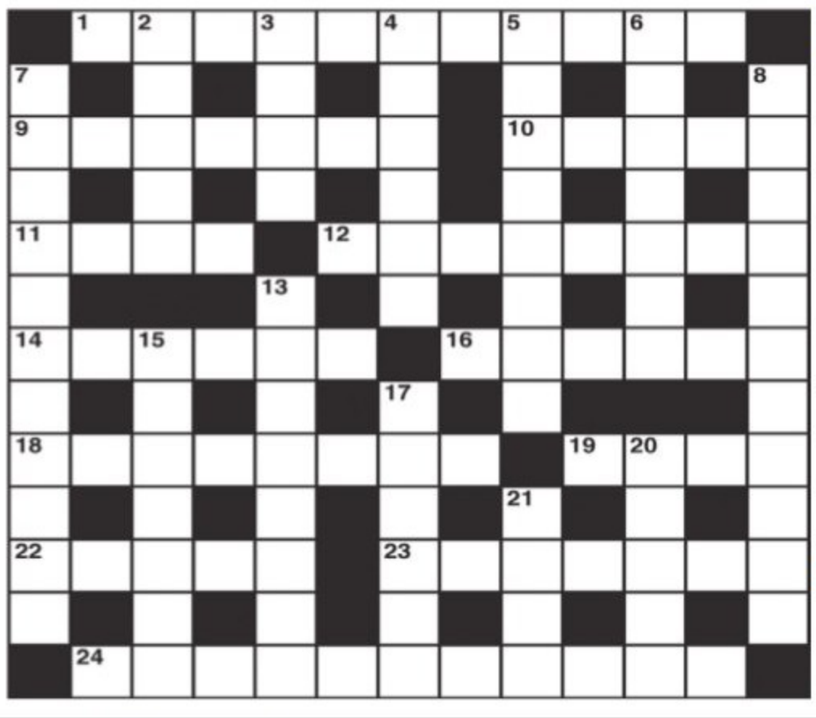
2		8			9	4		3
3			2		4	7		
				8	3			2
5		3	4					7
4	8						5	9
6					5	8		4
9			8	5				
		7	3		6			1
1		6	9			2		5

7	9	8	1	6	5	3	4	2
3	4	5	9	7	2	1	8	6
6	2	1	3	8	4	9	7	5
9	6	4	2	3	7	5	1	8
5	7	2	4	1	8	6	3	9
8	1	3	5	9	6	4	2	7
1	5	7	8	4	9	2	6	3
4	8	9	6	2	3	7	5	1
2	3	6	7	5	1	8	9	4

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 A demoralising conflict (3,2,6)
9 A number making a noise in an examination (7)
10 Boast about hand-made footwear (5)
11 Become obsolescent in time (4)
12 It's not so good being a subordinate (8)
14 God that is around for curing purposes (6)
16 Rush with indecent haste? (6)
18 Making contact and appealing to one's sympathy (8)
19 Measure that requires unusual care (4)
22 That receptive fellow (5)
23 Refuse to boast about one's years (7)
24 Yet they may be the product of an active imagination (4,7)

DOWN
2 Check the accuracy of someone else's account (5)
3 The sound of a pig in agreeable surroundings (4)
4 Lynn's upset about hole in her stockings (6)
5 Looks up to certain relations (8)
6 Coastal backwater (3,4)
7 A graphic description? (4,7)
8 Stockholder (11)
13 Descriptive of a manager - who's been arrested? (2,6)
15 Somehow grudged not being fully conscious of events (7)
17 Variation in game puzzles people (6)
20 Go after work as an engraver? (5)
21 He's known as a colourful navigator (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Accost, 4 Accolade, 9 Porter, 10 Employer, 12 Real, 13 Ambit, 14 Yarn, 17 Generalities, 20 Taxcollector, 23 Iota, 24 Saint, 25 Ends, 28 Horology, 29 Potage, 30 Ripeness, 31 Attest.

Down: 1 Amperage, 2 Curtains, 3 Step, 5 Come into land, 6 Oils, 7 Anyway, 8 Errand, 11 Small charges, 15 Dryad, 16 Level, 18 Stone Age, 19 Prospect, 21 Wither, 22 Stir up, 26 Clan, 27 Bout.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

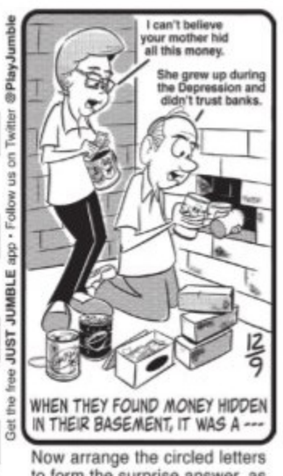
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

CRFAS

THHIC

GRAEOF

TANOEC


I can't believe your mother hid all this money.
She grew up during the Depression and didn't trust banks.
WHEN THEY FOUND MONEY HIDDEN IN THEIR BASEMENT, IT WAS A ---
12/9
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: OUTDO TUMMY GATHER ANYONE
Answer: The bullfighter welcomed people to his home at his — "MAT-A-DOOR"

- Fully air-conditioned 24x7 World Class Club
- 1500 four wheeler mechanical parking
- Own-a Home EMI Scheme @ Rs. 31,000/-* p.m.

Smart City's another Identity

ROHAN CITY

ROHAN CORPORATION

CREDAI MANGALORE

PRM/KA/RERA/1257/334/PR/211122/005492

Visionary Entrepreneur Rohan Monteiro

Rohan Monteiro, has been enabling the common people of coastal Karnataka to own their own houses over the past several years. Rohan Monteiro is the real estate developer who has his signature as the logo of his company and the projects he develop. This signature is not just a logo but a proof of the trustworthiness of this organization and the sincere service it provides to the people.

Meticulousness, neatness and perfection in every work have made Rohan Monteiro and his organization popular. Leadership with clear goals is essential to stay ahead in any discipline. For the last 29 years, his committed leadership has taken Rohan Corporation to greater heights in the construction industry of Mangalore. Commitment, quality, modern construction combinations and designs have made Rohan Corporation Projects enduring and brand trustworthy. With more than 25 prestigious projects, the company has a reputation of bringing everlasting smiles in the lives of more than 2000 families.

Under the foresighted and farsighted leadership of Rohan Monteiro, Rohan Corporation has constructed many huge and well appreciated building complexes. It has helped hundreds of people in owning their own house and live happily. Few Flats and commercial spaces available at Rohan Square, Capitanio, Pumpwell on Mangalore – Bangalore Highway and few fully developed sites are available at Rohan Estate, Pakshikere and Baithurli, Kulshekar.

Rohan Corporation has now ventured into building the world class project, Rohan City at Bejai Main Road, spread across 3.5 acres of land in joint venture with Dr M N Rajendra Kumar, Icon of Co-operative sector of Karnataka.

Dr M N Rajendra Kumar Co- Promoter

Dr M. N. Rajendra Kumar

Icon of the co-operative sector in Karnataka and the chairman of SCDCC bank for over four decades, Dr M N Rajendra Kumar has played a vital role in uplifting the farmers and marginal sections of the society with his various people-friendly schemes and self help groups. He is instrumental in improving the standard of living of the masses by job creation and business funding through his institutions. He is also involved in the housing and infrastructure industry and heading Global Star Realters Co (P) Limited. Rohan Corporation has already developed a project Global Court in joint venture with Dr M N Rajendra Kumar and he is the co-promoter of Rohan City, a prestigious project by Rohan Corporation.

Common Amenities

- 35000 sq ft Hyper Market in 2 levels
- 2 escalator for commercial space
- Residential, commercial, hotels, club, swimming pool, and ample parking, all under one roof
- Luxury facilities in the heart of Mangalore at very reasonable prices
- Project approved by major national banks
- Quick loan facility from leading banks
- 100% power backup with Diesel Generators
- Automatic power change over system
- Advanced security system Electric car charging points
- Designed Landscape Spaces
- Solid waste management System
- Solar PV Panels

The serene beauty & fully developed infrastructure facilities have transformed Mangalore, a city of coastal Karnataka into the most sought-after place for dwelling and trading in South India. Well-connected with all the modes of transport, institutions of higher education and specialty health care centers have further added value to the city, which is developing fast as one of the smart cities of south India. Infrastructure developers like Rohan Corporation have already contributed to the immense growth of Mangalore with 25 completed projects of great residential and commercial value. With prestigious projects are under pathway, the leading brand in the real estate industry of Mangalore, Rohan Corporation, led by young, dynamic, and visionary entrepreneur Rohan Monterio, launching yet another value addition, Rohan City, a commercial & residential hub on the Main Road of Bejai, which is considered to be the heart of Mangalore.

Bejai has its own significance, both in terms of strategic placing and historic importance. Being in the center of the Mangaluru City Corporation, it has become the abode of all major amenities. The place is popular for its tranquillity and connectivity. It is surrounded by several temples, educational institutions, speciality clinics, multiplexes, super-hyper markets etc. The KSRTC bus terminal is just a stone's throw away, as are the Bejai museum and St Francis Xavier Church. Reputed educational institutions like St Aloysius College, Lourdes Central School, SDM Law College all are within walking distance. The Mangalore International Airport is just 10 K M away from Rohan City and well connected by road.

Rohan City Special

- 6 lakh sq. ft residential area
- 2 lakh sq. ft commercial area
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ONGOING PROJECTS

Rohan Estate, Pakshikere, Mangaluru

Rohan Square, Capitanio, Mangaluru

Rohan Estate, Kulshekar, Mangaluru

Lokayukta sleuths on Sunday caught a special public prosecutor red-handed while she was accepting a bribe of Rs 1.87 lakh to tilt a case in favour of an accused in a Pocso (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) case

HDK links RSS to Gandhi's killing

Says BJP will make Pralhad Joshi chief minister if saffron party comes to power

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

JDS senior leader HD Kumarswamy stoked a controversy on Sunday, saying, "Those who killed Mahatma Gandhi are from RSS and they are Brahmins. They are not like our traditional Karnataka Brahmins. There are two or three different types of Brahmins. In those times, we used to reverentially fall at the feet of traditional Brahmins as they believed in Sarve Jana Sukhinobhavantu -- the happiness of all people. But these Brahmins are not them."

At the JDS Pancharathna Yatra at Dasarahalli in north Bengaluru, he said no one should fall victim to BJP ploys. "If BJP wins, the Sangh Parivar, which is the backbone of BJP, has decided to make Union Fertiliser Minister Pralhad Joshi, a descendant of the Maratha Peshwa community, chief minister. He is not like the Brahmins of our earlier times whom we used to revere. These are the kind that drove the descendants of the great social reformer, Shankaracharya, out of Sringeri Shankara Mutt. It is the same community that assassinated Mahatma Gandhi. They have decided to have around eight deputy chief ministers. If necessary, I can disclose the names of the eight persons. If BJP comes to power, it will ruin our state."

He said the JDS Pancharathna Yatra and the people's response have worried Joshi and made him nervous. "Joshi is trying to belittle the Pancharathna Yatra and it is not in good taste."

The yatra will be carried out in Bengaluru, Hassan Mysuru and different areas till the last week of March, he added.

Hitting back at Kumaraswamy, BJP General Secretary and MLC Ravi Kumar said, "He is a shining example of selfishness, hypocrisy and favouritism. BJP condemns derogatory remarks against Pralhad Joshi. Gopalkrishna Gokhale, Ranade and Bal Gangadhar Tilak were at the forefront of freedom struggle and all of them were Brahmins." He asked JDS, "Who will be your chief ministerial candidate," implying that that it would be someone from the JDS first family.

He claimed that the Supreme Court had ruled that RSS had no role in Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, but gave no reference to back his statement.

Responding to Kumaraswamy's comments, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said in New Delhi, "It is important to talk about what the party and its programmes can achieve. Personal talk is not relevant."

He said, "Kumaraswamy doesn't have to worry about our party. Let him first correct his own party. People don't see a person as belonging to the Brahmin caste."

POLITICAL TEMPERATURES RISE AS PARTIES SWITCH GEARS, FINE-TUNE STRATEGIES

As the winter cold makes way for warmer weather, the political temperature in poll-bound Karnataka is rising. The ruling and opposition parties have switched gears to take their campaign to the next level. The campaigning is becoming shriller by the day and the discourse is hitting a new low, indicating the bitter battle ahead this summer.

The parties are working on fine-tuning their strategies to make the most of their strengths and resolving issues at the local as well as state level as they get down to shortlisting candidates. The focus is also on wooing a large section of undecided voters, who will be a deciding factor. Much before releasing manifestos, the parties are announcing their welfare schemes and freebies, and candidates hopeful of getting tickets are reaching out to voters in their own way, prompting the Election Commission officials to crack the whip.

For now, BJP and Congress are busy finalising the candidates, while JDS got a headstart by announcing its first list sometime ago. The poll battle is likely to get more intense after the budget session of the state legislature and parties finalise their candidates. The session starts on February 10 and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will present the budget on February 17. As expected, the exercise ahead of the polls will be an effort to please all with populist moves. To be fair to Bommai, we have to wait and see if there will be an effort to strike a balance between being a populist leader and a pragmatic administrator, who will look at and even beyond the polls.

Whatever it may be, the ruling BJP will be waiting to go to town with the budget announcements and the government's report card. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on the "double-engine" governments' performance during his frequent visits to the poll-bound state is also seen as an effort to burnish the state government's report card, especially when the government is facing a slew of allegations and Opposition setting the narrative. The BJP is making all-out efforts to counter that narrative and continuing with its yatras. The party is starting yatras by state leaders from four different directions, simultaneously, in the next few days. But, beating anti-incumbency at the ground level will be a challenge for the party that is known for its well-oiled election-fighting machinery and springing surprises at the last minute.

On their part, Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) look confident and are making efforts to reach out to voters with their assurances as well as highlighting the government's failures. They are unlikely to show much interest in the session and the budget. Congress leaders have already dubbed the yet-to-be-presented budget as an election budget that will be full of freebies to woo voters.

Congress leaders feel there is a lot of anger against the government and the situation is conducive for them. After the first round of the yatra that covered all districts, top Congress leaders have now split into different teams to cover all the 224 Assembly segments. Former chief minister Siddaramaiah is touring North Karnataka, while state Congress president DK Shivakumar is leading the charge in the Vokkaliga heartland of South Karnataka. The challenge is to tour the state separately to make the most of the time and yet ensure that the party cadre gets the right signals from the top to put a truly united front. It's easier said than done, especially when many leaders nourish chief ministerial ambitions and their followers vie for tickets. Fielding the right candidates who can encash the anti-incumbency factor at the ground level is an equally tough challenge for Congress.

At least at this point, no party appears to be in a commanding position to cross the 113-mark on its own, though equations may change as we approach the polls. The element of uncertainty gives the JDS a reason to nurse its ambitions. Former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy is touring the state for 62 days and plans to continue till the end of March.

Despite many drawbacks such as failure to broad-base the leadership, organise the party across the state, many leaders deserting the party, and accusations of being a caste and family-centric party, JDS has many advantages too. A clear leadership, no confusion in giving tickets or taking up issues, a stronghold in the Vokkaliga region, and Kumaraswamy's resolve and vigour to fight the national parties.

However, the regional party's experiments have not worked well in Karnataka politics in the last many elections. Since its stupendous performance under HD Deve Gowda's leadership in 1994 when he became the chief minister and went on to become the Prime Minister, the JDS has never done that well, though it was part of the coalition governments. Its sway in the Old Mysuru region and efforts to better its performance in other parts of the state hold the key to the outcome of the 2023 polls. The national parties will certainly be wary of its potential to offset their calculations.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Poll time: MLA is in and answers calls too

Election time has its advantages. The voter suddenly acquires importance, and has the MLA Sahebru's ears too. A stark contrast with just a few days ago, when voters had complaints but the MLA was seldom available, and the commoner had to make do with the grumpy constituency manager. With elections due to be announced in a few weeks, MLAs themselves are attending to grievances and complaints, and voters are delighted that the leader even picks up the phone to answer calls. A word of caution here: It could be too early to celebrate, for once the vote is cast and results are out, it could be back to square one.

A garland for every occasion

Former CM HD Kumaraswamy, who is on his Pancharatna Yatra, has travelled to various districts where he was honoured with mega garlands held aloft by JCBs. These garlands are usually made out of fruits, vegetables, coconuts, and even ragi. In Bengaluru, he was felicitated with a huge garland of Metro coach lookalikes. And in Peenya, the garland appeared to made of spanners and screws. In keeping with the spirit of the location, we presume.

'Bali ka bakra' and other political tales

In 2006, when coalition governments were the norm, and so were political coups, former CM H D Kumaraswamy had a thick pal in Chamarajpet MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan. Zameer worked with zeal for Kumaraswamy, once even driving a bus to a resort with JDS MLAs on board. But over time, they turned foes, and now don't miss a chance to take swipes at each other. Like Zameer terming JDS state chief CM Ibrahim's son CM Fayaz 'Bali ka bakra' (scapegoat) after his candidature was announced for Humnabad assembly polls. Within no time, HDK fired a series of tweets, lambasting Zameer that he had no moral right to talk about the Muslim community, living as he does in a lavish bungalow. "You were spewing venom at Ibrahim's son, CM Fayaz will certainly win in Humnabad. Why are you so jealous about your community's young leader," he asked.

Puncture in Cong bus yatra?

Just ahead of the second leg of the Congress party's bus yatra, KPCC manifesto committee chief Dr G Parameshwara was found to be sulking. Rumours were rife that he was annoyed as both KPCC president D K Shivakumar and CLP leader Siddaramaiah had announced poll promises on their own, ignoring Parameshwara. But the BJP leadership got the clue. "Param and Muniyappa will puncture the Congress bus yatra," ridiculed BJP chief Naleen Kumar Kateel. Another issue threatens to crack the Congress -- former Union minister K H Muniyappa and Param are looking at Devanahalli assembly seat, the latter for his Man Friday A C Srinivas.

KEA releases list of malpractice suspects in KPTCL examination

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has listed 40 candidates as potentially indulging in malpractice during the examination for various posts in the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) held in July and August last year.

The provisional list of suspected candidates comes at a time when the number of arrests across the state has crossed 50. KEA issued the list of candidates, as well as their scores, that are currently under police investigation for suspected malpractice. The 40 candidates have scored between 8.5 and 47.25 marks in the 100-mark examination that took place on July 23 and 24 and August 7 last year.

Four of the candidates -- Aishwarya R Bagewade, Vaishnavi Sanadi, Sudharani Hoovappa and Basavaraj Havadi -- were arrested by Belagavi police earlier this year for using electronic devices, mobile phones and microchips during the examination.

Several arrests have been made in the case that was brought to public attention in August last year. They included candidates, guest lecturers aiding the candidates and other individuals who helped in supplying materials to cheat. While KEA has listed the candidates, it has also stated that the candidates are still under inquiry by the police. It is not confirmed whether all the candidates have been arrested.

Arrests began soon after the examination with the scam came to light in August. The examination was for recruiting assistant engineers (civil and electrical), junior assistants and junior engineers (civil and electrical). The KEA announced the results on January 3.

Voter list is Bhagavad Gita for BJP workers, says Kateel

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel said the role of a 'Page Pramukh' is significant and the voters' list is the Bhagavad Gita for BJP workers.

Addressing the party's first Page Pramukh conference on NES Ground here on Sunday, Kateel said Page Pramukhs should be in regular touch with voters. "I am happy the Bhooth Sankalpa Abhiyan was successfully conducted in Shivamogga. As many as 21,000 members have enrolled in Shivamogga city alone. I will like to thank the Page Pramukhs for that," he said. Kateel said that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who united India and not Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who recently conducted the Bharat Jodo Yatra across India. "Cultural India is rising, and around 24 acres of land was given in an Arab country to construct a Ganesha temple," he said.

He added that former CM Siddaramaiah divided society by officially observing Tipu Jayanti. "The BJP government enforced the Anti-Cow Slaughter Act and Anti-Conversion Act. It was the BJP that sanctioned Gau Shala to every district. The Karnataka government has also provided ambulances for cattle. When Siddaramaiah was CM, 24 Hindus were killed," Kateel claimed.

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel addresses a meeting of Page Pramukhs in Shivamogga on Sunday | EXPRESS

Kateel said when Hindu activist Harsha was murdered in Shivamogga, the BJP government for the first time gave a compensation to his kin. "Compensation was also given when BJP worker Praveen Nettaru was murdered. It was the Modi government that banned the PFI and brought justice for the murders of Hindu activists," he said.

Senior leader and MLA K S Eshwarappa, MP B Y Raghavendra and BJP district president Megharaj spoke at the event.

GTD holds rally, JDS youth leaders roar in Mysuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

AT a time when disgruntled JDS members from the Chamundeshwari constituency have joined Congress to challenge sitting MLA GT Devegowda in the coming Assembly election, he organised a massive rally on Sunday to silence his critics.

Called the Yuva Nayakara Janmothsava, it resembled a youth festival as thousands of youngsters from the constituency, Yelwal, Gungral Chatra, Mavinhalli and other rural areas took out a bike rally. Youth leaders from the party — Devegowda's son Harish Gowda and Nikhil Kumaraswamy -- arrived in an open vehicle for the event on HD Kote Road on the outskirts of Mysuru.

Nikhil said he is ready to sacrifice his political career to make his father and senior party leader HD Kumaraswamy chief minister again.

On differences between Devegowda and other JDS leaders in the past, Nikhil called the MLA the strength of the party and said it is common to have differences within a family. Devegowda and Harish are truly members of the extended family, he added.

He said JDS has a strong youth base in the Mysuru region with Harish, Prasanna — son of Periyapatna MLA Mahadevu, T Narasipur MLA Ashwin Kumar and others working hard for the people over the last few years. "There is a strong wave for JDS in the coming election and we should look at other southern states where regional parties are ruling," he added.

Encroached land to be leased: Ashoka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chikkamagaluru

REVENUE Minister R Ashoka said 40,000 acres of encroached land will be leased out in the district and a circular in this regard has been published in the state gazette.

At a felicitation accorded to him by the Karnataka Growers' Federation, Karnataka Planters' Association and UPASEE at the AIT College amphi theatre here, he said provision for lending of loans on the leased encroached lands by banks will be brought under the frame of law.

Tenders has been invited for demarcating the border between the forest and revenue lands identified by a drone survey at a cost of Rs 280 crore. On an experimental basis, four to five districts have been selected.

In Chikkamagaluru district, 2,688 growers have encroached up to 10 acres, followed by 554 persons up to 10 to 15 acres, 861 persons up to 15 to 20 acres and 989 planters who have encroached up to 20 to 25 acres. Law has been framed to lease the encroached land according to the conscience, the minister said.

Extent of deemed forest is 9 lakh hectares and after meeting with the forest minister, 6 lakh hectares of land has been taken back by the revenue department. Details on survey numbers of respective lands have been already sent to the deputy commissioners. Lands will be transferred to the owners who are cultivating in the said lands, he said.

Revenue Minister R Ashoka being felicitated in Chikkamagaluru on Sunday

PM to lay foundation stones for Jal Jeevan projects

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE factory, spread across 615 acres, will be expanded to manufacture other choppers, like the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Indian Multirole Helicopter (IMRH). The facility will also be used for repair and overhaul of LCH, LUH, Civil ALH and IMRH in the future. The factory has the potential to export Civil LUHs in years to come. The new facility can meet the country's entire requirement of helicopters, and will attain the distinction of enabling self-reliance in helicopter design, development and manufacture in the country.

The factory will have a manufacturing setup of Industry 4.0 standards. Over the next 20 years, HAL is planning to produce more than 1,000 helicopters in 3-15 tonne class here, generating employment for around 6,000 people.

On the occasion, Modi will lay the foundation stone for the Tumakuru Industrial Township under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme, spread across 8,484 acres to be implemented in three phases as part of the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor. The foundation stones will also be laid for two Jal Jeevan Mission projects at Tiptur and Chikkanayakanahalli as part of Multi-Village Drinking Water Supply Project, to be built at a cost of Rs 430 crore and Rs 115 crore, respectively.

Modi at India Energy Week 2023

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the India Energy Week 2023 at BIEC in Bengaluru at 11.30 am on Monday. Unleashing the ethanol blending roadmap, he will launch E20 fuel and flag off a Green Mobility Rally to create awareness for green fuels. He will also launch the uniforms under the 'unbottled' initiative of Indian Oil.

A 28-year-old techie died after he rammed his two-wheeler into a tree in Hennur traffic police station limits, Bengaluru, at 2.30 am on Sunday. The victim has been identified as Ramesh, who while riding on the Nagenahalli main road lost control at a curve and rammed into the tree

HOSTILE HOSTELS

Food full of worms, unhygienic washrooms, lack of basic amenities... hostels run by the social welfare dept in Karnataka are a nightmare

TEAM TNIE @ Bengaluru

EVERY year, cases of poor-quality food being distributed to children are reported in several government-run educational institutions. This remains the case, especially so with hostels housing minority students.

With the recent incident in Ballari, where students were evicted after they protested against bad quality food, the issue came in for criticism from experts and political leaders. Recently, as reported by TNIE, students from the Backward Classes and Minority (BCM) hostel in Ramanagara district complained of insects in their food. Several students had highlighted unsafe and unhygienic cooking conditions in the hostel, leading to cockroaches and worms in the food. This is the case in many hostels in Karnataka. According to the Social Welfare department, which manages the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) hostels, there are 634 post-matric hostels and 1,236 pre-matric hostels functioning across the state. They cater to as many as 1.64 lakh minority students. The Backward Classes Welfare department currently runs 1,068 post-matric and 1,301 pre-matric hostels, where a total of 1.87 lakh students reside. This is in addition to students in government and residential schools, who are provided daily meals by the government.

While officials say that care was taken to ensure the students are served proper food, this has not been reflected in reports given by students.

Poor quality food

Hundreds of children studying in residential schools and BCM hostels in Chitradurga, routinely report food poisoning. Sumana, a student at the post-matric hostel run by the BCM department at Challakere, said the food quality earlier was pathetic, and not fit for consumption.

Obalappa, a student at Rampura, Chitradurga, said, "I had frequent health issues due to the consumption of sub-standard food. This affected my studies and I was forced to drop out from college."

PU students Yuvaraj and Spoorti, residents of a BCM hostel in Kalaburagi, said food is of poor quality, and there is no proper security at the hostel.

Pramod (name changed), an engineering student at the SC-ST hostel in Shivamogga, said quality food has not been given to students, and alleged that food is not cooked as per menu. "They cook as per their convenience. There is a lack of cleanliness. Regular cleaning is not done, and if students force them, they clean the hostel once in 15 days or a month. There is no proper security. Anyone can enter the hostel. Recently, a student was robbed of a mobile phone at the entrance of the hostel. Though there are CCTV cameras, they cover only inside the hostel, and no one checks who enters the hostel," he alleged.

Post-matric students of SC/ST Boys Hostel, Hassan, said the students had found small insects in the boiled rice twice, and alleged that the hostel was using rotting rice. Another said that students from various hostels barged into the hostel premises and quarrelled over silly reasons, and it would be wise to bring in security for the hostels.

Chandu L, a Dalit leader from Belthangady, says many hostels need repairs, while the newly sanctioned hostels are run in rented buildings.

"During the Siddaramaiah-led government, students were given quality food including eggs, chicken, milk etc, but now substandard food is provided. Earlier, we found worms in essential items used in hostels. Even the kitchen is unhygienic. Despite many issues, the students live there as they cannot quit due to high costs in private hostels/PGs or daily travel."

Lack of facilities

This year, more than 5,000 students applied for admission in hostels in Kalaburagi, but only 500 to 600 students were accommodated, AIDSO state secretariat member Sneha said.

There are 132 BCM hostels and 104 SC/ST hotels in Shivamogga district. Students have complained about quality of food, security and lack of hygiene at the hostel. Some girls of the BCM hostel complained that sanitary napkins and toiletry accessories like brushes, toothpaste, soap and others provided free, are not of good quality.

Shweta (name changed), a second-year B.Sc student, said while hygiene is maintained, the quality of products is poor. "The sanitary pads given to girls are not of good quality and most students don't use them. Even soaps, paste, brush and others things are of bad quality," she said.

BIG PICTURE

Hassan district has 116 BCM and 98 SC/ST and minority pre and post matric boys' and girls' hostels, and accommodates 19,000 students. While 169 hostels have their own buildings, 38 function out of rented buildings.

Most students have complained about unhygienic toilets and washrooms, bad stench in toilets and washrooms due to lack of maintenance at SC/ST and OBC hostels, causing health hazards. On condition of anonymity, a student of post-matric OBC near Akashavani hostel, alleged that the department failed to provide quality beds and dustbins. Many students sleep without beds, he added.

Students of an OBC boys' hostel in Hassan, too, complained about unhygienic toilets and washrooms. No warden was present when the TNIE correspondent visited the OBC and SC/ST boys' hostel. D Group employees allegedly do not clean the toilets and washrooms, despite cleaning materials being supplied, the students said.

The condition of backward classes and minority hostels in Udupi district is comparatively better. Inmates of some BCM hostels said there is, however, a need for more infrastructure as some hostels are run in rented buildings. "Though most of the inmates are from outside the district, students from interior areas also stay in BCM hostels due to transport problems. Students from Byndoor and Kundapur stay in hostels in Udupi city," an official said.

However, one incident in November last year drew the attention of the district administration. Four students of Class 4 and 5 had sustained injuries in a fire mishap in a government hostel in Hebri taluk of Udupi district. They had gone to burn trash that had accumulated behind their hostel building, and a sanitizer bottle in the garbage had exploded, injuring four students.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Many hostels function in rented buildings, and the government does not pay rent on time to the building owners, said AIDSO state secretariat member Sneha Kattimani. Just a month ago, the owner of a building where a girls' hostel is run, evicted the girls, locking them out of the hostel. The girls staged a demonstration in front of the DC's Office, and the department made alternative arrangements.

Manjunath RK, a Dalit activist from Dakshina Kannada, said hostels for Scheduled Castes and Tribes are run in rented buildings, and lack basic infrastructure. "Many hostels do not have sufficient space to accommodate all those who apply for hostel facilities. A few children of daily wage labourers from Kalaburagi had sought help to get hostel facility but were turned down as the BCM hostel was full. Many community students get hostel facilities outside their taluk or far away, which forces them to quit. There are sufficient funds to ensure better hostel facilities, but they are diverted elsewhere. In many hostels, wardens are rude and don't keep an eye on teenagers."

Fear of protesting

Samaja Jagrurtha Vedike president H Beeresh said that BCM hostels in Mysuru are in a pathetic condition, and negligence by the authorities is to blame. Recently, students of Devaraja Urs BCM Post Graduate Hostel for Boys at Gangotri Layout had held protests, alleging poor quality food.

"Though the government allots lakhs of rupees for students, officials' apathy has led to poor maintenance. There are various incidents where students have complained about problems in food and drinking water. In BCM hostels, students come from rural areas with poor financial background, and don't protest against officials and lack of facilities," he said.

A girl staying at a SC/ST hostel in Urwa, Mangaluru, says the hostel does not have sufficient water. "For seven years, there has been water scarcity. Girls struggle during menstruation due to water scarcity and use limited water to bathe and wash clothes. Students were targeted when they shared their problems with wardens," she said.

Investigation and checks by officials

Ever since incidents of food poisoning were repeated in hostels in Chitradurga district, the district administration took the initiative to check food quality supplied here.

Zilla Panchayat CEO MS Diwakar formed a team of officials and directed them to check the quality of food by consuming it with the students, videographing and posting them so that quality is maintained. The checks by officials, including the deputy commissioner, are so frequent that evasive replies cannot be given by hostel wardens or cooks. Since the checks, the quality of food has improved drastically, say students.

Shivamogga ZP CEO N D Prakash told TNIE that a meeting was conducted last month on improving hostel conditions. "We instructed wardens to provide facilities without fail. The condition of hostels has improved," he said. Wardens have been instructed to ensure that food provided to students is of the best quality, said Belagavi DC Nitesh Patil.

Patil told *TNIE* that social welfare officers have been asked to check food quality in all hostels, and if found to be of bad quality, send it back. He said that in all ways, food quality is not compromised. Patil also said that wardens were instructed to maintain cleanliness in hostels.

Manjunath, Hassan SWD Deputy Director, maintained that there was no fund crunch for providing food and basic amenities. Students are provided quality food as per the menu and senior officials often supervise this. Hakkappa Lamani, Hassan BCM officer, said steps will be taken to provide security for boys' hostels, and their complaints addressed soon.

(Inputs from Donna Eva, G Subhash Chandra, Ramkrishna Badseshi, Arpitha I, Tushar A Majukar, BR Udaya Kumar, BK Lakshmikantha, Divya Cutinho and Prakash Samaga)

Adani row: KCR questions Modi govt about going slow on setting up of JPC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

BHARAT Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not constituting a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to investigate the sudden fall in the share prices of the Adani Group and extended a friendly hand to Maharashtra on the utilisation of the Godavari waters.

Rao addressed a public meeting of BRS in Nanded in Maharashtra, the first outside Telangana, and also spoke to reporters on the BRS' policies. During the press meet, Rao expressed concern over the fall in prices of the Adani shares, in which LIC has invested its money. "Why PM Narendra Modi is not replying on the 'Adani scam' in Parliament, even as the Opposition raised it in the House," Rao asked, alleging the Centre of shielding Adani.

BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao in Nanded on Sunday | EXPRESS

On the irrigation front, Rao extended a friendly hand to Maharashtra. "Around 2,000 tmcft to 3,000 tmcft of the Godavari is being wasted into the sea every year. Chief ministers of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana can sit together and resolve any disputes on river water sharing. Let the Maharashtra Chief Minister come to Telangana to discuss the river water sharing issue," Rao said.

He recalled that when Devendra Fadnavis was Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Telangana reached an agreement with his state and constructed the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme.

"If necessary, Maharashtra can utilise the Godavari waters from Sriram Sagar Project of Telangana," Rao offered, stating that the river water disputes could be resolved through dialogue.

Rao chose Nanded for holding the first meeting of the BRS outside Telangana, as the second biggest city of Marathwada shared a border with Telangana.

Several villages of Nanded district earlier wanted to merge with Telangana, as they would get freebies being given by the BRS government. Enumerating the BRS' schemes like Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, free power to farmers, and Dalit Bandhu, Rao declared that if the 'gulabi party' was voted to power, all these schemes would be implemented across the country.

Rao said that around 100 experts, including economists, scientists and retired bureaucrats, were being consulted for drafting the BRS agenda.

Rao said that BRS was founded only to bring a revolutionary and qualitative change in the country.

> **Why PM Narendra Modi is not replying on the 'Adani scam' in Parliament, even as the Opposition raised it in the House?**
> —K Chandrashekar Rao, BRS president and Telangana Chief Minister

Many growers across the district have been forced to stop coffee-picking work as the plants have bloomed over two months prior to the blossoming season

Early blossoms worry Kodagu's coffee growers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Madikeri

THERE is a sweet fragrance persistent across the estates of Kodagu, and it is emerging from the blossomed coffee plants. While the fragrance and the sight of the blossoms is soothing to onlookers, it is a sign of worry to the coffee growers. Many growers across the district have been forced to stop coffee-picking work as the plants have bloomed over two months prior to the blossoming season.

"Nearly 70 per cent of the ripened coffee beans have been picked across my estate. However, we have now stopped the picking work as all the plants are blooming with next year's crop. We have to wait at least a month till we restart the cherry-picking work as the blossoms will take nearly a month to set in the plants," explained Harish Madappa, a grower from South Kodagu. He recalled his early days as a grower and explained that coffee has been severely affected by the changing weather conditions.

The coffee-picking season normally started in January and ended before March. However, cyclonic rains in November advanced the coffee-ripening process and the coffee-picking began in December. Now again, the sudden showers during the last week have resulted in the blossoming of the coffee plants. "Earlier, after the harvest work on farmlands, we began coffee-picking work. Now, hardly any farmer practises paddy cultivation in the farms due to loss. Further, after the coffee-picking by March, we carried out sprinkler irrigation across the estates to prepare the plants for the blossoming process for next year's crop. However, the change in climate has affected the entire work process in the estates," he explained.

According to him, 95 per cent of the growers have witnessed a downfall in the yield this year. "I have faced 35 per cent less yield than last year," he confirmed. With the crops blooming early this season, next year's yield will also suffer as these blossoms might not survive the pre-monsoon showers and the upcoming monsoons. While several growers have received a maximum of Rs 28,000 compensation under the NDRF and SDRF scheme, they demand a revision in the compensation amount as the released fund will not help them sustain the increased losses faced by them.

Chandy family seeks Pinarayi help for former CM's treatment

CYNTHIA CHANDRAN @ T' Puram

FORMER Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy's 42 close relatives, including his younger brother Alex V Chandy, have given a memorandum to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, seeking the state government's urgent intervention in ensuring the best follow-up treatment for him.

TNIE is in possession of the copy of the memorandum which was forwarded via email to Pinarayi and Health Minister Veena George. The relatives have been forced to approach the state government after 79-year-old Oommen Chandy's family had allegedly banned his own siblings and other close relatives from visiting him, putting them in the dark as to what is happening.

Following pressure from Chandy's relatives, party workers from his Puthupally constituency, the Congress high command and state Congress leaders, his family had decided to take him to a leading private cancer hospital in Bengaluru within the next two days.

This was informed by his son, Chandy Oommen, in a Facebook post on Saturday. But the relatives are peeved with Chandy Oommen, who is currently serving as chairman of the All India Youth Congress Outreach Cell, for denying them entry to Puthupally House, Poojappura, here.

The memorandum in Malayalam says that Oommen Chandy has not been provided with follow-up treatment ever since he returned to Thiruvananthapuram from Bengaluru during early-January.

EXPRESS READ

Public prosecutor caught accepting bribe to tilt Pocso case

Davangere: Lokayukta sleuths on Sunday caught a special public prosecutor red-handed while she was accepting a bribe of Rs 1.87 lakh to tilt a case in favour of an accused in a Pocso (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) case. Based on a complaint filed by Madan Kumar GT of Kittur of Davangere taluk, who is an accused in the Pocso case, Special Public Prosecutor Rekha Kotegowdar had demanded a bribe of Rs 3 lakh. She had received the first installment of Rs 1.13 lakh and was caught while Madan was handing her the rest of Rs 1.87 lakh. **ENS**

Two workers die of suffocation inside STP at apartment complex, 5 booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TWO workers died of asphyxiation inside a sewage treatment plant (STP) of a residential apartment complex on the Kanakapura Road in Konanakuntte police station limits on Saturday night. The two were engaged in STP work when the incident happened.

Following a complaint from the wife of one of the deceased, the police have registered a case of death by negligence under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against five people. The duo were working for a city-based private company which is into construction and treatment plants.

The deceased are identified as Ravi Kumar of Gollarahatti village of Koratagere taluk in Tumakuru district, and Dileep Kumar from Odisha.

The two are said to have gone to work at around 2 pm. They were found unconscious and were shifted to a hospital where they died.

Kumar's 29-year-old wife Sashikala got to know about her husband's death around 9 pm when the field officer of the firm inform her about the death.

The bodies were shifted to the KIMS Hospital's mortuary for postmortem. The police are awaiting the postmortem report to ascertain the exact cause of the death.

The Konankunte police have registered a case against Mukthiyar Ahmed, owner of the firm where the two victims worked, Prabhu, electric incharge, Ramesh, field officer, management of the apartment complex and the owner of the apartment.

The Konanakunte police have registered a case and are further investigating.

EDITORIAL

One of the deep secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others

Lewis Carroll

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

ERODE BYPOLL BECOMES SECONDARY AS INTERNAL FIGHTS TAKE OVER

Assembly byelections are more often than not seen as a referendum on the ruling party's track record in government. The upcoming bypoll to the Erode East Assembly constituency is no different. In the 2021 Assembly elections, the DMK's alliance partner Congress contested against the AIADMK's ally, the Tamil Maanila Congress, and won by a difference of close to 9000 votes. The bypoll necessitated by the death of the Congress MLA Thirumagan Everaa should have been the perfect opportunity for the Opposition to put the ruling DMK on the mat. After a year and a half in government, a hike in power tariff, questions about law and order, misbehaviour of senior ministers and accusations of nepotism are just some of the issues raised against the DMK of late.

Unfortunately, the main opposition party, the AIADMK, has been distracted by a faction feud between two former CMs, Edappadi K Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam. While EPS has demonstrated the support of the party's powerful general council, which elected him interim general secretary, OPS has challenged the outcome of that GC meet. Amid that legal stalemate, both factions announced candidates for the bypoll that might have resulted in the party's symbol being frozen if the Supreme Court hadn't told the general council, including OPS and three expelled members, to decide on the final candidate. This means it is EPS who will have the last word. However, the wrangle ate into valuable campaigning time, exasperated the party's cadre, and enabled the DMK to get a march on the Opposition.

Yet, there are some key takeaways from the imbroglio for TN's politics. First, EPS remains in a stronger position than OPS as far as the AIADMK is concerned. OPS' legal battles have hardly endeared him to voters or party cadre. Second, the BJP, which spent a year taking advantage of the AIADMK's turmoil in seeking to dominate headlines, revealed its unconfidence in facing a poll in TN on its own. The party dithered over picking a faction to back (finally saying it wanted both to come together, drawing the ire of the EPS side) and wouldn't commit to fielding its candidate. For all its rhetoric, it needs the AIADMK's support to face the parliamentary election next year, but by now, EPS seems in little mood to oblige. Meanwhile, the DMK, for the moment at least, appears to be sitting pretty.

K'TAKA POLL CAMPAIGN A SOP STATE OF AFFAIRS

With elections just a couple of months away, it's sop season in Karnataka. The Congress led the way, announcing free electricity for up to 200 units and ₹2,000 for each homemaker. The BJP, too, joined the bandwagon with a similar promise of ₹2,000 to women householders but scoffed at its rival's free power pledge. The JDS has catered to its farmer constituency, vowing to waive farm loans. Each party is trying to outdo the other to impress its catchment electorate, as the line blurs between welfare schemes and bribes for votes. Apart from the parties' official announcements, aspirants are dipping into their goodie bags and giving away mixers, mobiles, stoves, cookers, crockery, saris and festival hampers. The target of this soft approach is women, and parties are bending over backwards to snare their vote.

In promising free power, the Congress has taken a page from the Aam Aadmi Party's rather successful playbook. Since 2014, the AAP government has offered 200 units of electricity free of cost and a 50% subsidy of up to ₹800 on the consumption of 201 to 400 units per month to all households, besides subsidies on water bills and free bus rides for women. Despite dire predictions, the party has managed to keep its populist schemes afloat in Delhi, and now Punjab, and won landslide victories. The Congress, too, had implemented its own set of 'Bhagya' schemes in Karnataka, like Anna Bhagya (free foodgrains), Ksheera Bhagya (milk for children), Arogya Bhagya (free healthcare), Krishi Bhagya (farm loans), Indira Canteens (cheap food), and Shaadi Bhagya (for minority community brides). While these were extremely popular and almost synonymous with former CM Siddaramaiah, they failed to win him another term. Yet, the Congress hopes to ride on largesse to reach the winning post.

It is easy for political parties to announce welfare schemes without a thought to the economics of how they will implement them. Economists have warned about the long-term toll on the state's economy, but parties are confident that their financial spin doctors will come up with the answers. Karnataka's debt burden now stands at ₹5.2 lakh crore. While the AAP government followed up on its freebies and put in place good government schools and 'mohalla clinics', it remains to be seen if the big two national parties have the wherewithal to do it. In today's world, meeting people's aspirations of good education and healthcare is more important than giving away freebies.

QUICK TAKE

QUALITY PRO BONO DEFENCE

Yet another report last fortnight seeks proactive legal aid to undertrials who often fail to negotiate the criminal justice system simply because they cannot afford lawyers' fees. But qualified legal assistance is vital for poor convicts on death row. In October, the Supreme Court overturned a death sentence because the murder accused got a shoddy defence. The court decreed that experienced lawyers at State cost must defend the penurious in the future. Pro bono services often mean indigent accused getting saddled with ill-qualified lawyers. The needy must know they can also avail themselves of the free services of top-draw advocates.

Marking national Independence or founders days are important for nation states. While they may be sober, understated events or full of pomp and pageantry, the idea is to remind nations of collective aspirations and achievements. They are reminders for resets, honest reflection and taking stock.

For Sri Lanka, 75 years of self-rule should have been cause for celebration. But most Sri Lankans are not just vexed by the political tribe for their failure to be accountable but are angrier due to the lack of delivery and politicians' refusal to steer towards a new economic and political order despite being in the face of a deepening crisis.

If the recent large-scale protests had one message, it was the collective public outrage towards Sri Lanka's failed political elite. For the large majority of Sri Lankans, February 4 should have been the day to mark a resplendent island's proud history but instead, it is now a reminder of a legacy of irreversible damage, of self-destruction.

Never have Sri Lankans been as critical of a national celebration as they were of the February 4 event. Overlooking the public outrage, President Ranil Wickremesinghe decided to mark the event at a cost of nearly USD 529,997 and in his address to the nation, called for a course correction by rectifying "errors and failures". Sri Lankans by now have run short of patience for the meaningless promises that were designed to be broken, and the practice of busting millions to go on ego trips as the island continues to bleed.

However, there is the counterpoint by a fraction of the society that national days are important as the idea is to mark such events as a "collective", with emphasis being laid on the collective celebration.

Further, it is argued that if divided among the population of 22.6 million Sri Lankans, it would cost every individual less than Rs. 20 and is not something to be critical of.

Neck deep in debt with the ruling elite still locked in negotiations to secure a bailout, convenient math is not something the people have the aptitude for. Instead, they want to see the national mess cleared, both at the financial and political level.

People want uninterrupted electricity supply, the killer taxes to be slashed, and overall inflation and food inflation to be controlled (the latter driving one-third of the population towards food insecurity and spiking malnutrition, especially among children). People are tired of watching Sri Lanka serving as Asia's case study of how a nation goes broke.

Just as Independence was being marked with a ceremony that was unaffordable, Lanka Coal Company was seen requesting USD 12.32 million to purchase essential coal for the power plants. As angry Sri Lankans were heard saying, it is not about a single event but about the ruling elite's callous disregard for the public's essential needs.

In April 2022, the government indicated bankruptcy by announcing a temporary suspension of all external debt repayments, claiming Sri Lanka was not able to honour its commitments due to the worst financial crisis post-Independence—a position confirmed by Ranil Wickremesinghe in July 2022, just after assuming the office of prime minister.

Sri Lanka's current external debt exceeds a staggering USD 56 billion and it is the first time that the island nation has defaulted on debt repayment. With an overall inflation rate of 54.2% in January 2023 and food inflation at 60.1%, 36% households are food-insecure, says the World Food Program (WFP) in its October 2022 Household Food Security Survey.

The government desperately needed a bailout as a first step towards stabilisation. And there was a glimmer of hope—on February 3, Sri Lanka's bondholders expressed willingness to urgently engage with the relevant authorities to design and implement restructuring terms that would help Sri Lanka restore debt sustainability. The Paris Club is considering a 10-year debt moratorium coupled with a 15-year debt restructuring process.

But for six months, an anticipated International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout had appeared illusive after the IMF insisted on a similar undertaking from China but to no avail, deepening the island's economic crisis.

Ending months of sidestepping, China on February 3 offered Colombo a two-year moratorium on loan repayments. According to Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning, China has presented a plan to provide an extension on debt service due in 2022 and 2023 during which period the cash-strapped nation is not required to pay the principal and interest on the existing loans. This arrangement, though critical, comes as a serious contrast to that of the Paris Club's undertaking.

There lies a lesson for the Rajapaksas who, though populist, were not capable of securing a multilateral bailout and renegotiating debt with their sworn creditor, China. Their impudence had come at a severe political cost, driving an elected president out of office and decimating popular support for the powerful family.

But Sri Lanka has a long way to go towards recovery. It is not something a financial bailout alone can fix. 2022 has held a mirror to our collective faces and offered a painful reality check. Angry protests were held in every corner of the country, demanding refocus and reforms. The rulers have been reminded of the need to heal ethnic wounds, to meet youth aspirations, and address a nation's severe democratic deficit. It has shown what little has been achieved post-Independence.

Perhaps a meaningful way to mark the 75th anniversary of political independence from the British is for the ruling elite to genuinely reflect on the string of mistakes, the bad faith, lack of accountability, shameless corruption, absence of timely action, and the foresight to ensure self-rule actually serves public purpose.

It is also a moment for the people of Sri Lanka to question the choices made over 75 years, to assess the role of the citizen, and recommit towards creating the country we all deserve.

It is only by taking responsibility and committing to a reformist agenda that Sri Lanka can hope the 80th Independence celebrations will be any different.

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Sri Lankans have run short of patience for meaningless promises that are designed to be broken and the practice of spending millions on ego trips as the island bleeds more

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF BANKRUPTCY

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer. She is a founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

SOUMYADIP SINHA

WHAT AN *UPANISHAD* ACTUALLY SAYS ABOUT BIRTH AND BEHAVIOUR

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

Long ago, in the forest-covered plains of western Kuru-Pancha-la, now known as Delhi-NCR, a book of lectures, stories and conversations was put together about the nature of the world and the proper goals of mankind. This grand old book is known as the *Chandogya Upanishad*.

They say it was the sage Uddalaka Aruni who compiled it millennia ago, comprising eight chapters. Its core idea is 'The oneness of the One'—the Supreme Soul or life force is in everything, everywhere. The most famous words of the *Chandogya Upanishad* are '*Tat tvam asi*', meaning 'You are That'. This cryptic remark is understood as saying, 'Since everything in the world is interconnected, you too belong to the Almighty.'

Notably, this *Upanishad* says that life is a celebration, a rather wonderful party, and the presents we bring to it are ethical behavior, goodwill to all, and the habit of truth. Glum, insincere or harsh behavior is not the correct way to repay *prana*, the life breath, thanks to which we are guests at the party of life.

So the *Upanishad* sets a high standard for people as individuals and not because of their ancestry. It tells us what became of a likely lad in a small settlement in western Kuru-Panchala.

His mother, Jabala, was a single parent who worked as a maid in several people's houses. The little boy went everywhere with her and quietly observed all kinds of people in all kinds of homes. His mother had taught him not to touch anything and he never gave trouble. So nobody minded him trailing behind his mother.

When he was about eight years old, his mother took on a new job, helping the local priest's wife clean and wash her home every day. The boy was no stranger to the sound of holy chants in the neighbourhood, which seemed to him a wonderful thing full of power and mystery. The hard-edged consonants rang in his ears with a deeply satisfying sound and he longed to know what they meant. He wanted to address the splendid gods himself on behalf of all, in those beautiful words and meters.

The priest's son, with whom he went birdnesting and swimming, told him the names of the meters in play, which delighted the boy. At last he had a real piece of knowledge from that world.

"The Gayatri meter has 24 syllables. The Trishtup has 44. The Jagati has 48," he murmured, dying to know more. One day, the priest's son told him the first line of the *Rig Veda*, the very first line of poetry known to the world.

"Agnim eeley purohitam yajnasya deva rtvijam," the boy crooned to himself by the banks of the Yamuna, "I praise Ignis, the chosen one, the priest, god, and performer of sacrifice." The Yamuna gurgled softly in encouragement. "I want to study, I want to go to school," he told the river and raced home before his mother could worry.

"Agnim eeley purohitam yajnasya deva rtvijam," the boy crooned to himself by the banks of the Yamuna, "I praise Ignis, the chosen one, the priest, god, and performer of sacrifice." The Yamuna gurgled softly in encouragement. "I want to study, I want to go to school," he told the river and raced home

There were visitors the next week at the priest's—students on their way to join the gurukul of a sage who lived nearby, Rishi Haridrumata Gautama. The boy's heart beat fast. He followed them to the gurukul and saw that the *rishi* had a strong, sensible face and the Guru Ma, his wife, smiled kindly at the boys.

Waiting his turn, the boy went up to the guru and said, "Please sir, may I learn with the others?"

The teacher smiled. "Of course you may, if your parents permit it. Tell me your father's name, my boy."

The boy was dumbstruck. He did not know who his father was. His mother had never once mentioned it and he had never thought to ask.

"Sir, I'll be back soon with the answer," he said and turned to leave.

When he got home, the boy ran to his mother and said, "Mother, who was my father? They're asking at school before they'll admit me."

"Do you want to leave me, son, and go away to gurukul?" asked his mother, a catch in her voice.

"I don't want to leave you, Mother. But I must go to school. Please will you let me go?"

His mother looked at his desperate face and her heart melted. "You have my permission to go," she said gently.

"But Mother, who was my father?"

His mother looked steadily at him.

"Listen carefully, my son. You have nothing to be ashamed of if you always tell the truth, however difficult it seems. The truth about us is that I am an orphan and was sent to work as a maid when I was a little girl. I worked in many places. I also had to personally look after guests. Sometimes this meant I had to sleep with them. And then I had you and decided to go away and work only where I had a chance of bringing you up without having to do that. This village has been our haven since then."

"Mother! Who was my father, then?"

"I have no clue about your father, my son. My name is Jabala. Your name is Satyakama. So tell them at school that you are Satyakama Jabali, the son of Jabala."

The boy looked at his mother in silence, trying to understand what she had told him. He smiled a sudden joyous, carefree smile and rushed back to the gurukul, his heart overflowing with love and respect for his brave mother. Let the guru reject him, he would look for another teacher or another.

But instead, the *rishi* looked hard at him and leapt up beaming. He hugged the boy and said, "Well are you named Satyakama, the one who loves truth. Such a one as you is meant to uphold an ideal to society, that it is not birth but character that makes you 'highborn'. I salute your mother. You shall learn everything I can teach you."

"And nothing was omitted," says the *Upanishad* with satisfaction, "Yes, nothing was omitted."

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Her voice in our hearts

The mysterious death of singer Vani Jairam has sent shockwaves across the subcontinent. With her mesmerising voice, she sang over 10,000 voluminous songs in 18 languages. Her melodies are immortal.

P V Prakash, Mumbai

Doyenne's melodies

The demise of Vani Jayaram, the doyenne of Indian film songs, with melodies like *Bole Re Papihara* and some unforgettable ones in Malayalam, has put all song lovers in grief. She will live on through her songs.

Elizabeth Koshy, Pathanamthitta

Mellifluous legend

Vani Jairam's sudden passing has shocked everyone. Her *Niththam Niththam Nellu Soru* and *Malligai En Mannan* made her famous. She had a calm demeanour and was respected by everyone. She is gone but her mellifluous voice will stay in our hearts forever.

Rajamani Chelladurai, Tirunelveli

Ground realities in polls

Apropos of *PM's prime projection is primary poll pitch* (Feb 5). Another scintillating supernova from Prabhu Chawla smacks of the ground realities in the four poll-bound states. Only relying on Modi's charisma is inadequate. State-level BJP leaders have to buck up and walk the talk à la NaMo for the past 25 years sans an iota of complacency.

Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Atrocities after 75 years

Apropos of *Dalit woman beaten up by upper caste man* (Feb 5). It is so upsetting to see that such discrimination against selective sections of the society persists even after 75 years of Independence. People's minds must change, because laws or constitutional amendments won't make much difference.

Nidhi Shenoy, Bengaluru

Compliance need of hour

Apropos of *Kerala budget is a missed opportunity* (Feb 5). By taxing the common man, it is as if the finance minister doesn't dare to touch the state's huge administrative expenses. Secondly, so many businessmen in Kerala are still tax evaders. Why can't the minister at least gear up his administrative machinery for a year-round vigil on them? Insist on compliance.

Geetha B K, Mangaluru

Comprehensive history

Apropos of *Our textbooks should teach about the greatness and flaws in history* (Feb 5). The columnist is correct that the greatness and the flaws of leaders should be taught. A comprehensive history should comprise the whole country rather than isolated regions.

Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

P Chidambaram @PChidambaram_IN
A Delhi court has held that Sharjeel Imam and 10 others were made "scapegoats" in a case connected with violence in Jamia Millia Islamia in 2019

Mehbooba Mufti @MehboobaMufti
Deepest condolences. Perhaps the only Pakistani General (Pervez Musharraf) who genuinely tried to address the Kashmir issue

Tejashwi Yadav @yadavtejashwi
Released booklet of essential medicines in #Bihar on World Cancer Day. Mahagathbandhan govt has increased number of drugs in essential medicine list

SUSTAINABLE GOALS, CLIMATE ON G20 AGENDA

In a candid conversation with editors of TNIE/TMS, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant speaks on a range of issues

India's G-20 presidency, says former CEO NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant, who is the G20 Sherpa, has come amid several crises besetting the world, and these primarily concern the geopolitics in Europe, mainly stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war. India's priorities are about accelerating the pace of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "It's also about digital-led development, which India has demonstrated through its digital transformation," he said.
Excerpts:

SHAHID FARIDI: What is the one big idea you propose that will make people remember India's G20 presidency?
Kant: We have 12 working groups, and eight tracks on the finance front. We have several engagement groups, each working on 3-4 broad priorities regarding inclusive and resilient growth, green climate action, and accelerating the pace of life. To my mind, we should lead towards green development and get the backing of all countries.
Technological innovations have so far come from the developed world. For the first time a developing country like India would be able to showcase its technology.

PREETHA NAIR: India has always been the voice of Global South. How are we going to position India?
Kant: The Prime Minister recently interacted with 125 countries belonging to the Global South. A lot of ideas came in. The important thing is that there should be far more sharing of the experiences of the developed world. Both sides need to learn from each other.
Another key challenge is the global debt that many in Global South face. We also have lending by China. All of them need to sit together to to solve it.w

AMIT MUKHERJEE: The electrification of public transport is one of the 27 targets of G20. While the focus is on mass transportation, the stress is also on two and four wheelers. How do you think the two can harmonise?
Kant: India's urbanisation has just begun. In the next four-five decades, we will see 500 million people getting into it. Our urbanisation has to be sustainable; it could involve cycling, walking, and public and mass transportation. For that, you have to upfront insert money into infrastructure transportation which is a very different model than what the US and Europe have built. Currently, 75% of the vehicles in the country are two-wheelers and three-wheelers. Either you electrify them or get them converted by 2025. They need to go electric, so battery and battery storage will be the key for city-to-city movement. However, for long-distance electric buses, we must look at green hydrogen.

AMIT MUKHERJEE: Where will finance come from?
Kant: Is there a problem with financing? A lot of resources are relevant in the world even for climate action. It's basically a structuring of projects. However, de-risking of projects is very important.

DIPAK MONDAL: India has forayed into digital public goods like Cowin and EPI. So could we get a sense of what is the next big thing?
Kant: This year's Budget talks about building a digital public infrastructure model across sectors, including agriculture. The objective is that we should

first evangelise and then let the world know that our innovations are unique. It is different from what the Western world has created. The West has created a big-tech model, but all those innovations have come from tech giants. India has an alternative model of public infrastructure that competes with the private sector.
Secondly, we should ensure the privacy of data while empowering citizens. A committee has been formed with me and Nandan Nilekani as chairpersons. It will discuss the way forward across all working groups.

JITENDRA CHOUBEY: How will India persuade the rich nations to offer finances to Global South's transition to clean energy?
Kant: We will keep persuading all countries. The developed world has accepted the principle of just transition. India is not responsible for polluting the world. India has taken only 1.5% of the carbon space, while it is entitled to 18.5% of the carbon space. The developed world creates as much as 88% of pollution. They need to ensure climate justice.

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT: The health meeting of the G20 summit suggested strengthening cooperation in pharma. WHO has twice issued warnings on the adulteration of India-made drugs. Will it harm India's position?
Kant: It does not damage our reputation. India has been able to provide low-cost medicines to the world. India is the vaccine capital of the world.

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT: Amid the talk about women's participation and women empowerment in the G-20 summit by the government, the situation in terms of creating jobs is different. Your take?
Kant: Women's development is not just an initiative. It is a movement. We have seen in the Budget 2023-24 that 81 lakh necessities have been provided for the uplift of women. Today 56% of the bank accounts are owned by women. We are examining strategies for women's empowerment in the context of the G-20 summit.

YESHI SELI: You have been professionally very active. Have you given a thought to joining politics?
Kant: No, I have no such intention…I want to read, write and play some games, and I have no inclination towards joining politics at all.

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA: You already said the infra has been vitalised in our cities. Could you explain its present status?
Kant: Actually, we got a lot of support from state governments. Every city and state has done much work. Cities are being spruced up. Transformation is going on. We are partnering with all states.

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA: How about Delhi?
Kant: Everyone is working as a team. You will see a good face of New Delhi by the time we have the foreign ministers 'meeting.

MONIKA YADAV: Your assessment of PLI (production-linked incentive)...
Kant: Production is important, as well as the incentive scheme in the scale of manufacturing. In production, you have to look at the size and scale of things year after year. PLI is meant for a limited period of five years. It is not a solution for India. The solution for India is attempted by the PM: Make in India -- make India productively competitive and efficient economy.

EXPRESS READ

Bharat Biotech sends 3L nasal shots to pvt hosps

NEW DELHI: Bharat Biotech has delivered three lakh doses of its nasal Covid vaccine to private hospitals across India, the company's Executive Chairman Krishna Ella said on Sunday. iNCOVACC, the world's first intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, was launched on January 26. The vaccine is now available on CoWIN and priced at Rs 800 for private markets and Rs 325 for the state and central government. "We dispatched three lakh doses of the nasal vaccine to some hospitals two days ago. Let us see the response. Some countries have approached us for (exporting) nasal vaccines," Ella said on the sidelines of an event in which an MoU was signed between the University of Wisconsin - Madison Global Health Institute and the Ella Foundation for the establishment of the first-ever UW-Madison One Health Centre in Bengaluru.

MUSHARRAF, MANMOHAN HAD ALMOST SOLVED KASHMIR ISSUE: EX-PAK PREZ'S COURSE MATE

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

FORMER Pakistan President and Chief of Army staff late General Pervez Musharraf in 2010 in a reunion with his course mates at Stockholm had told veteran Indian Air Force (IAF) officer Air Marshal Philip Rajkumar that he and former Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh had "almost come to a solution" on the Kashmir issue.

"I think he was referring to making the Indo-Pak border irrelevant. But Musharraf told me that he had to back out," said Rajkumar, who was Musharraf's course mate in the Royal College of Defence Studies, London in 1990.

Recalling his earlier reunion with his course mates at Islamabad in 2005, when Musharraf was the President of Pakistan, the veteran IAF officer said they were hosted at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad and had visited Chitral, Khyber Pass, Muree and Takshila.

Recounting the bitter-sweet memories of his acquaintance with the late former Pakistani military ruler, Rajkumar said at the Chitral Scouts Mess, he had a one-on-one meeting with Musharraf for 10 minutes, during which he had asked the latter why he didn't make peace with India.

"Musharraf had replied saying that before making peace with India, he would have to sell peace to his people, indicating the Pakistan Army. He told me yeh log nahi manenge in (they won't agree)," said the retired IAF officer.

"I had congratulated Musharraf, when he was appointed as Chief of the Pakistan Army in 1998 and he had acknowledged it. A year later, he waged the Kargil war against us. In 2010, when I met him at Stockholm, I questioned him on Kargil and he told me that Kargil was a wake-up call to the world on the Kashmir issue," narrated Rajkumar.

The tactic of using 'war gimmicks' by Pakistan has always been to divert attention from their own crippling domestic issues and Musharraf was no exception.

"He was a typical service officer; golf playing and fun loving. He was street smart. He had usurped power. It is impossible that he didn't know about Osama bin Laden's presence in Abbottabad. We had gone past that house, when we had visited the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul in 2005 during the reunion of course mates in Islamabad on Musharraf's invitation," said Rajkumar.

Recounting their Pakistan visit in 2005, the retired IAF officer said that Musharraf had hosted them well. "He was an excellent host. We were able to see places in Pakistan, where normal tourists may not be able to go. We met the Kalash tribe in the remote areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They are said to be descendants of Alexander the Great. They are white skinned, blonde and blue-eyed people. We saw the polo match between Chitral and Gilgit at 14,000 feet at Shandur. We were flown around in Pakistan Airforce aircraft," said the retired IAF officer.

'Need to promote nutrition literacy'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

ULTRA-PROCESSED foods whose basic edible and nutrient portions are significantly altered and those having artificial ingredients may have clear health warning labels on the front-of-the packs to promote informed food choices, a study by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition has said.

The study also recommended that any Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL) format, once introduced, can be successful only if nutrition literacy and label education are taken up across the country.

It said that most participants claimed to read food label information, but they often check only the manufacturing and expiry dates. It was also observed that even though the percentage of participants reading nutrition information always or sometimes is low, the participants checking the veg/non-veg symbols and quality symbols was higher.

The study tested the consumer on five FOPNL formats - Nutri-Score (NS), Health Star Rating (HSR), currently vogue in Europe and Australia Warning Labels (WL), Multiple Traffic Lights (MTL) and Nutri-Star Rating (NSR).

"Among the labels studied, WL and NSR had a more significant impact in altering the health perception of the food products," the study said.

"Among the summary indicators, even the presence of 2 stars in HSR or NS prompted higher choice of the same variants of food and lesser willingness to opt for others," it said.

In short, to identify the healthiest or unhealthiest variants, any format of FOPNL can work, it said.

Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL)

Clear front-of-the pack health warning labels has been touted to promote informed food choices, a study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has said

The study recommended that any FOPNL format, once introduced, can be successful only if nutrition literacy and label education are taken up across the country

THE STUDY TESTED CONSUMERS ON FIVE FOPNL FORMATS
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- Most participants claimed to read food label information, but they often check only the manufacturing and expiry dates
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- Participants checking the veg/non-veg symbols and quality symbols was higher

Chidambaram urges SC to end pre-trial incarceration

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

SENIOR Congress leader P Chidambaram on Sunday said the criminal justice system that tolerates pre-trial incarceration is an affront to the Constitution and urged the Supreme Court to put an end to this 'daily abuse of the law'.

He made this remark a day after a Delhi court discharged Sharjeel Imam and 10 others in the 2019 Jamia Nagar violence case.

Reacting to the development, Chidambaram tweeted, whether there was even prima facie evidence against the accused.

"The Court's conclusion: unequivocal no. Some accused have been lodged in jail for nearly three years. Some got bail after many months.This is pre-trial incarceration," the former home minister said.

Transparency over privacy: Draft data bill will weaken RTI, say experts

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

'Bill may empower govt to deny info to people'

The proposed Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill 2022 emphasised 'privacy' over 'transparency' said many experts who interpreted the bill as an effort to empower the government to deny the information to the people in the name of privacy

TO BE introduced in the second leg of Budget 2023, the proposed Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill 2022 is designed to weaken India's landmark transparency law, experts have maintained. The proposed bill emphasised 'privacy' over 'transparency' said many experts who interpreted the bill as an effort to empower the government to deny the information to the people in the name of privacy.

India's Right To Information (RTI Act) is considered one of the world's best transparency laws. It empowers the citizens and recognises their has the right to access nearly all information with the government.

The RTI Act exempted Ten categories of information from disclosure to prevent harm to certain interests and ensure the smooth working of the government. These are outlined in Section 8 (1) with the ten subsections from a) to j).

For instance, the RTI Act 8(1) (j) sub-section empowers the authority to release personal data for larger public benefits.

"Many refusals of information did not adhere to the law but refused information with a bland statement that since it was personal information they would not give it," Shailesh Gandhi, former Chief Information Commission, told this newspaper. "This has been widely used to cover arbitrary, corrupt or illegal acts of government officials" he adds.

"Most information except budgets would be linked to one of these, and the RTI would become a Right to Deny Information, rendering it as an ineffective tool," says Anjali Bhardwaj, national convenor of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI).

NCPRI had submitted its feed back to the bill when the Union MeitY kept it in public for consultation between 18 November-17 December 2022. Later, the MeitY extend the date till 2 January 2023.

During a public consultation organised by the Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State Electronics and IT on 23 December, Gandhi raised the contentious DPDP's provision to the minister through virtual participation. Gandhi claimed that consultation meeting link was not shared with him.

POWER GAMES

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Congress Plenary

PARTY MANAGERS NERVOUS ABOUT CWC ELECTIONS

The jury is still out on whether the Congress party will hold elections to choose members of the Congress Working Committee at its Raipur plenary on February 24-26. There is a powerful section that does not want elections and favours nomination instead. The support received by Shashi Tharoor from across the country against official candidate Mallikarjun Kharge in Congress presidential election has made leaders occupying top party posts wary of an election. There is fear that the top party managers may lose in a free and fair election. On the other hand, if they do not contest and are sent to the CWC through the nomination route, they will lose stature and may not command the respect of party workers. This dilemma has delayed announcement regarding the CWC election. Congress presidents have failed to get their loyalists elected in the past. In the last CWC election, held two-and-half decades back during the presidency of Sitaram Kesri in Kolkata in 1997, many of Kesri's candidates lost badly, and his opponents, namely Ghulam Nabi Azad, Arjun Singh and Sharad Pawar, won by handsome margins. The CWC elections are when the 1400-odd members of the All India Congress Committee, who elect the CWC, are much in demand. Tales such as the all-powerful R K Dhawan personally distributing water to AICC members standing in queue to vote at the Tirupati plenary in 1992 are part of Congress folklore. Dhawan sensed the AICC members' mood and pulled all stops to woo them. Still, he was defeated. The mood of the present members of the AICC appears no different. There is no love lost between them and the party managers. Hence the delay in the announcement of the election. But Rahul Gandhi has been categorically in favour of holding elections at all levels. The notice for holding the CWC election, which should have been issued one month before the plenary as per the constitution, is still to be sent. Rahul is back from Bharat Jodo Yatra, and a decision on the issue is likely this week.

Karnataka elections

SANTHOSH'S STOCK DOWN AS BJP FIELDS PRADHAN

The BJP's decision to appoint Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan as election in-charge of Karnataka has dealt a blow to party general secretary B L Santhosh's image as a powerful functionary who has the ears of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Santosh hails from the Udupi district of Karnataka and has worked for many years in the state. As the BJP's general secretary (organisation), he has wielded enormous power both within Karnataka as well as in other states. However, the party's top leadership has not been happy with how things have gone in Karnataka, where elections are due in May this year. Internal reports have indicated that the party may face defeat there without a timely change of course. Santhosh's scheme of Mandal-level outreach has seen a low turnout, and the sidelining of former chief minister B S Yeddyurappa has not yielded the desired result. Many other moves, including the choice of Rajya Sabha candidates, are said to have proved counterproductive. The party has, therefore, decided to reboot its strategy in the poll-bound state. Sources said the Prime Minister has indicated that Yeddyurappa, instrumental in giving the BJP its first government in south India, should be given a larger role. The PM had a one-on-one meeting with the Lingayat leader when he came to Delhi for the party's national executive meeting. Pradhan, along with another Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya, will now take the reins from Santhosh to steer the party to a position of strength before the election.

Shifting Alliances

KUSHWAHA TO QUIT JD(U); MAY JOIN UNION MINISTRY

Upendra Kushwaha had merged his Rashtriya Lok Samata Party with Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), hoping to emerge as the latter's successor in the party as well as the government. But Nitish's announcement that his deputy Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal will take over from him as the next chief minister when he hangs his boots has queered the pitch for Kushwaha. Sources said he might quit the JD(U) and revive his RLSP, which will fight the Lok Sabha election next year in alliance with the BJP. Kushwaha may also make a comeback into the Modi ministry, which he had quit to join hands with Nitish.

CASH RECOVERED
The Jharkhand Police have recovered "unaccounted" cash of `6 lakh from a car in poll-bound Ramgarh district. The recovery was made at a check post on the Ranchi-Patna National Highway.

01 HELD RAPING, THREATENING WOMAN IN MAHA

Ahmedabad	30	15	Mumbai	33	21
Bhopal	30	13	Panaji	30	22
Jaipur	26	11	Patna	27	13
Amritsar	24	09	Lucknow	25	13
Chennai	31	23	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	29	18	Imphal	25	06
Srinagar	05	-1	Chandigarh	24	11

Western UP leads in G-20 investment proposals

Manufacturing sector leads the list followed by agriculture

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

OF the investment proposals worth ₹21 lakh crore received so far by Uttar Pradesh government in the run up to the Global Investors' Summit (GIS-2023) scheduled for February 10-12, western UP is leading with 45 per cent of the total proposals and MoUs signed for investment in this region.

As per official sources, western UP is followed by eastern region with 29 per cent of the total proposals, whereas central UP and Bundelkhand have received 13 per cent proposals each. While the investment proposals range across 25 different sectors, manufacturing sector leads the tally with 56 per cent of the total investment proposals. In the wake of the state government's initiative towards 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Ease of Starting Business', various domestic and foreign companies have expressed interest in setting up their manufacturing units, said a senior government official.

After manufacturing sector, agriculture has received 15 per, infrastructure is at thrid position with eight per cent, followed by textile at fourth with 7 per cent and tourism at fifth with 5 per cent. Meanwhile, CM Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, inspected the main venue for the mega event, the countdown for which has already begun. Notably, the UP Global Investors Summit is expected to host leading business captains, numerous investors from across the globe along with VVIPs including President Droupadi Murmu and PM Narendra Modi. While PM Modi is expected to inaugurate the event on February 10, President Murmu is likely to attend the valedictory session on February 12. The entire venue has been divided into seven blocks to host 10,000 guests.

Besides a food court, there is a VIP lounge, lounges for partner countries, industry partners and knowledge partners. Adjacent to this, another block with four hangars to conduct sessions of different departments simultaneously has been constructed.

Heading towards ease of doing business in Uttar Pradesh

Western UP is leading with 45% of the total proposals and MoUs signed for investment in this region

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Manufacturing	56%
Agriculture & Allied	15%
Infrastructure	8%
Textile	7%
Tourism	5%
Education	3%
IT & Electronics	2%
Healthcare	1%
Warehousing & Logistics	1%
Renewable Energy	1%
Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices	1%

MADHYA PRADESH

Eye on bypolls, Chouhan on statewide 'Vikas Yatra'

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

AIMING to further his government's pro-poor and development agenda during the Assembly election year, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the statewide 'Vikas Yatra' on Sant Ravidas Jayanti from Bhind district on Sunday.

Launching the Yatra, the CM said the Yatra isn't just a *'karma kand'* (ritual), but a dedicated campaign to convey the message of development and welfare of the poor. Over the next 20 days, the CM and his ministers will travel across the state to engage with people on development and propoor schemes, particularly with beneficiaries of the 38 welfare schemes.

"The villagers will be kept up to date of all the development initiatives and the money spent on it through information boards," Chouhan said. "During the ongoing CM Jan Seva Abhiyan we're giving sanction letters to those who've till now haven't been covered by propoor and welfare schemes. The same process will not only continue during the Vikas Yatras, but those who fail to be covered by other welfare schemes.

Maha by-elections: CM asks Pawar to withdraw candidates

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA CM **Eknath Shinde** dialed NCP chief Sharad Pawar and other Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders requesting not to field their candidates in the state bye-elections in Chinchwad and Kasba Peth.

The Chinchwad and Kasba Peth state assembly seats elections are necessitated after the deaths of BJP MLA Laxman Jagtap and Mukta Tilak respectively. BJP has announced its candidate for both the seats, Ashawini Jagtap, spouse of Laxman Jagtap will contest from Chinchwad while Hemant Rasane will contest from Kasba Peth.

Shinde said that it is the culture of Maharashtra, not to field the candidates if the seat and elections are necessitated after the demise of a sitting MLA. "We always support the deceased family members to get elected. We expect the same in both the constituencies. Therefore, I called NCP Chief Sharad Pawar and other Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders respecting the state culture and paving the way for BMC candidates," Shinde said.

However, Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) leader said that it is true the ruling party has requested for their

support, but it has been decided in MVA meet to contest both the seats bye-elections. He said the ruling party should not teach them about morality.

"In Andheri East elections, how BJP and ruling party troubled deceased Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke's spouse Rutuja Latke from approving her resignation as clerk in BMC, knocking the court door. BJP tried to block her candidature by all means, but they failed. They did not field the candidate but they were forced to withdraw the candidate at the eleventh hour after forseeing a major defeat," Raut said.

In the MVA meeting, it was decided that Kasba Peth seat will be contested by Congress while NCP will contest the Chinchwad seat.

BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
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Cong poll strategy shift to affect leaders

Nine months before the year-end assembly polls, the opposition Congress has decided not to field its organizational office bearers (state, divisional and district) as candidates. The decision will affect the poll prospects of around 20 district and Vidhan Sabha organizational incharges, including four formers ministers, including Mukesh Nayak and Raj Kumar Patel (both ex-MP ministers) and Tarun Bhanot and Kamleshwar Patel (sitting MLAs who were ministers in the erstwhile Kamal Nath government). It will cast its adverse shadow on ex-Mahila Congress chief Shobha Oza also.

Ex-aide files complaint against Scindia loyalist

A Dhar district-based businessman Nitin Nandecha, who was once a close associate of MP industrial policy and investment promotion minister Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon, has filed a four-page complaint against the Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalist MP cabinet minister, accusing him of physical, mental and economical torture to him and his family. In the complaint, Nandecha has alleged that many of his business assets, including machinery, vehicles and brand new cars have been captured by the minister and aides, who are threatening him with dire consequences.

AAP to contest all 230 seats in 2023 polls

Eyeing to be the third political force in the largely bipolar state, the AAP has decided to contest all 230 assembly seats of the state in the year-end polls. The party which recently dissolved its entire MP unit is working at building a new state unit in the next month and half. Importantly, the party had contested 208 out of the 230 assembly seats in 2018 polls, but could manage just one per cent of the total votes. But buoyed by mayoral poll win in Singrauli, election of 52 municipal councilors in last year's urban body polls and 74 office bearers in rural body polls, AAP has decided to go full throttle on all 230 seats.

Victory is ensured when learning is involved, says PM

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Jaipur Mahakhel via video conferencing on Sunday. BJP MP and former I&B minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore has been organizing 'Jaipur Mahakhel' in his Lok Sabha constituency of Jaipur Rural since 2017.

In the final match of the tournament on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the youth at this sports event via video conferencing and advised them that "it's only when you are fit that you can become a superhit".

PM Modi also witnessed a kabbadi match on the occasion and congratulated the players, coaches and families of the winners. "Victory is ensured when there is learning involved", the PM said as he underlined that no player leaves the sports field empty-handed.

"The youth of Rajasthan always come ahead of the rest when it comes to the security of the nation", the PM remarked as he credited the sport's traditions of Rajasthan for shaping the mental and physical capabilities of the

youth of the region. He lauded Rajasthan's traditions of valour and bravery for hundreds of years.

In the Jaipur Mahakhel, over 600 teams and 6,500 youths have taken part in this year's edition of the competition. He also noted the participation of more than 125 girls' teams which relays a pleasant message.

Concluding the address, he remarked "when efforts are made wholeheartedly, results are assured."

PM Modi also highlighted the efforts made by the country during the Tokyo Olympics and Commonwealth Games and said that the results are for everyone to see.

'Cong-Left alliance in Tripura good for BJP'

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Mission 2024 begins with Tripura, amid perceived anger on the ground. Making matters more challenging for the party is that the Congress and Left, which were once bitter foes, have struck a seat-sharing deal. However, dental surgeon-turned-chief minister **Manik Saha** is confident that there will be a tsunami in favour of the BJP. In an interview with the **Prasanta Mazumdar,** he said "Bamgress" ('bam' meaning 'left' in Bengali) and gress (Congress) will be a boon in disguise for the BJP.
Excerpts:

What are BJP's prospects in the Assembly polls?
BJP will retain power. We are getting an unprecedented response from people.

Why should people re-elect the BJP?
People will back us for our achievements. We improved connectivity, built roads and other infrastructure, and restored peace. The highway from Agartala to Sabroom is on par with the best in the country. Work is underway for six national highways. Funds worth ₹10,222 crore have been sanctioned for seven more national highways. We will take these to people as we go to elections. I always say that roads show us the road. As far as internet is concerned, Tripura has the third strongest internet system in the country. We had never imagined that Tripura will get railhead. Today, 11 express trains, including Rajdhani, run from the state.

Why are BJP leaders highlighting only central government initiatives?
The state government also has several achievements to its credit. The government fulfilled the long-standing demand for a dental college. Crime rate has dropped drastically. We ensured 33% reservation for women, and set up seven all-woman police stations, and installed CCTVs at various places to ensure the safety of women and girls. During the pandemic, the government gave free ration and ₹1,000 each to 6.75 lakh poor families. We gave promotion to doctors who were serving in the same grade for 22 years. We set up seven super-speciality hospitals, and improved health facilities. We took up a project for the birth of cows (not bulls) through artificial insemination. This government distributed 75,000 mobile phones to students. It also solved the problem of Brus by resettling them with Centre's help. About 3,000 TET-qualified

teachers were appointed in a transparent manner. Earlier, the jobs used to go only to the supporters of the ruling party. The social pension given to the poor has been increased to ₹2,000 from ₹700 given during the Left Front regime. The salaries of government employees have been also hiked.

Is BJP concerned over Left-Congress alliance?
The Congress and Left do not trust each other. . For 25 years, CPM unleashed terror. Now that they have come together, there cannot be anything sadder than this. People are not liking it. It is good for us that their alliance is out in the open. Previously, it was clandestine. That they are the two sides of the same coin is now proven.

TIPRA Motha has polarised the tribals on the 'Greater Tipraland' statehood demand...
Greater Tipraland is not practical. They have not been able to cite its geography. They did politics by driving a wedge between tribals and non-tribals. Now, they are going along with non-tribals by fielding them in the general seats. They are riddled with problems. People do not support political instability. It is good for us.

The BJP said there will be no division of Tripura. Will the party suffer in the tribal areas?
We have 10 elected members in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council. People live in a fool's paradise if they think we have no strength in the tribal areas.

Will BJP forge an alliance with TIPRA Motha after the polls?
There will be a tsunami of votes in favour of the BJP. Therefore, the possibility of post-poll alliance is very thin. We are together with (tribe-based) Indigenous People's Front of Tripura. We will work with anybody if the intention is the welfare of the tribals.

In a blow to BJP, another MLA joins TMC

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

SUMAN Kanjilal, BJP MLA from a north Bengal constituency, joined the Trinamool Congress in presence of Abhishek Banerjee, Trinamool Congress's national general secretary and nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

With Kanjilal's defection, BJP's strength in the Assembly has come down to 69 from 77 as five other MLAs had joined the ruling TMC earlier. Two MPs, who contested and won in the 2021 Assembly polls decided to function as the representatives in the lower House.

"As an MLA, I want to work for the common people. I discussed it with the CM and joined the TMC. I wanted to perform more as a BJP MLA under the schemes of the Union government. But I could not because many projects were stalled by the BJP-led Centre," said Kanjilal.

Superstitious *Daagna* practice kills 2 infant tribal girls within 4 days in MP

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

TWO faith healers have been booked by the police for allegedly poking two pneumonia afflicted infant girls by hot iron rod and bangles in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh. The women have been booked under provisions of The Drug and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act 1954 and IPC. Both the girls (Kol tribe) aged two and three months respectively, were poked by hot iron and bangles multiple times – 51 times in one case and 24 times in the other case – died within a span of four days at the Government Medical College hospital and a private hospital on February 1 and February 4 respectively.

Acting in the matter, the Singhpur police registered separate FIRs under Section 7 of the 1954 Act and Section 324 of IPC against the two faith healer women, on Sunday. While, in

the first case, the accused faith healer woman has been identified as 40-year-old Ramvatia Charmakar, in the second case the accused woman is yet to be identified.

The Shahdol district chief medical and health officer Dr RS Pandey, meanwhile, has initiated action against 15 permanent and contractual staff of the health department, spanning from block medical officer to ANM and ASHA workers, for failing to prevent the two shocking incidents of the superstitious practice of *Daagna* and timely medical care to the two pneumonia affected baby girls. The action ranges from issuing show cause notice to removal from the post over dereliction of duty in both the incidents.

The health department's field staff has also been directed to conduct door-to-door pneumonia screening among kids aged up to six months in every village of all development blocks of the east MP district. The department's field staff has also been directed to track and report about all such people who are indulgent in killer practice of Daagna. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairperson said on Sunday that notices seeking detailed reports will be issued to the Shahdol administration in connection with the deaths of both infant girls, following the killer superstitious practice of *Daagna*.

Twitterati pick Dhami as 'most handsome CM'

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

UTTARAKHAND CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has been named India's most handsome chief minister in a Twitter poll. The poll was between four chief ministers — Punjab's Bhagwant Mann, Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy and Goa's Pramod Sawant, wherein Dhami topped the list with 38 per cent votes, Sawant came in second with 32 per cent, whereas Jagan Mohan was third and Mann fourth.

Around 20 thousand people took part in suggested and selecting the four names, after which more than 23 thousand people voted, picking Dhami has the 'most handsome CM'.

Reacting to this, Congress spokesperson Sandeep Chamoli said, "Beauty is a gift of nature and Pushkar Dhami deserves congratulations, he has been given the title of 'Handsome Chief Minister'.

First budget will be 'people-centric': Sukhu

HARPREET BAJWA @ Dehradun

HIMACHAL Pradesh Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** on Sunday in Nadaun said that the first budget will be 'people-centric'.

Addressing a gathering in his home constituency Sukhu said that some hard steps would be taken to bring the derailed economy on track and urged people to cooperate with the government. Sukhu said that the government was committed to fulfilling all guarantees that the Congress had given to people before the Assembly elections but all these would take time.

He further said that the government had implemented the old pension scheme (OPS) for government employees and soon ₹1,500 per month would be given to every woman aged between 18 and 60 years in the state. He reiterated his resolve to strengthen the health, education and tourism sectors in the State, and that the government was committed to work for the welfare of the people and to reach the last man in the queue.

There won't be dearth of funds for the construction of Dr Radhakrishnan Medical College in Hamirpur and the hospital would be equipped with the latest technology, and would be converted into the model health institution of the State.

16
killed and 66 others injured after a multi-vehicle collisions occurred in central China's Hunan province

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	9	-6	TDS	Los Angeles	21	7	LC
Colombo	28	24	LC	Melbourne	21	15	HR
Dhaka	28	17	TDS	Moscow	-5	-9	HR
Dubai	26	17	SNY	New York	11	-1	LC
Houston	23	17	SNY	Singapore	30	24	TDS
Istanbul	6	2	LC	Toronto	-1	-4	LC
London	7	-1	LC	Washington	11	-1	LC

CONTROVERSIAL PERSONALITY

PAKISTAN DIVIDED ON LEGACY OF MILITARY RULER PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

ISLAMABAD

PERVEZ Musharraf was a polarising figure in Pakistani politics, returning the country to a period of economic stability while accused of rampant abuses and weakening democracy.

His rule was marred by repeated allegations of abuses, including ruthlessly rounding up his opponents as well as being accused of involvement in former PM Benazir Bhutto's assassination.

General Musharraf was one of the military dictators who misruled the country by... bringing in a group of sycophants," businessman Abdul Basit told *AFP*. "People do give credit to General Musharraf for developing the country but on the other hand, like his predecessors, he played havoc," said Basit.

In the face of the turmoil, some remember Musharraf with a certain fondness.

"Musharraf boosted education standards and infrastructure in Pakistan. He brought development to the country," 24-year-old student Mohammad Waqas told *AFP*.

"He was a good ruler. There has not been a leader like him before and there will never be one like him again," said 70 year-old Islamabad shopkeeper Muhammad Khan.

File photo of Pervez Musharraf being escorted by soldiers as he salutes on his arrival at a court in Islamabad | AFP

Veteran Pakistani politician and Musharraf ally Parvez Elahi told *AFP*, "He was a ruler with a lot of depth, who loved hard work and he would appreciate new initiatives."

President Arif Alvi sent condolences to the former president's family, according to a statement by the President's Office."President Arif Alvi has expressed his sorrow at the death of former president and army chief General (retired) Pervez Musharraf," according to the statement.PM Sharif also offered condolences to Pervez and prayed for the 'forgiveness of the deceased.' "I offer my condolences...May the departed soul rest in peace!" he tweeted. *Agencies*

Musharraf's engagements with India during his reign in Pak

Pervez Musharraf, the architect of the Kargil War in 1999, engaged with India on various crucial issues, including on the Kashmir issue. Here's a look

AUGUST, 1943: Musharraf was born in 1943 in Delhi. His family moved to Pakistan after the partition in 1947

JUNE, 1964: Musharraf joined the Pakistan Military Academy

OCTOBER, 1999: Musharraf, the then Chief of Army Staff, leads a bloodless military coup, deposing the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif and installing himself as the head of the government in the capacity of Chief Executive

JUNE, 2001: Musharraf declares himself as the president of Pakistan after the incumbent, Mohammad Rafiq Tarar, resigns

FRENEMIES FOREVER

JULY, 2001: Musharraf and the then Indian PM Atal Behari Vajpayee meet for a two-day summit in Agra. The summit collapses after two days, with both sides unable to reach an agreement on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir

DECEMBER 13, 2001: A terror attack on the Indian parliament left 14 people dead. India blames Pakistan-based terror groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad for the attack. The attack led to a massing of India's and Pakistan's militaries along the border and the Line of Control. The standoff only ended in October 2002

MARCH, 2002: Musharraf pledges that Pakistan will combat extremism on its own soil, but claims that the country has a right to Kashmir

SEPTEMBER, 2003: Musharraf calls for a ceasefire along the LoC during a UN General Assembly meeting and later India and Pakistan reach an agreement to cool tensions and cease hostilities across the border

NOVEMBER, 2004: On the eve of a visit to J&K, the new PM Manmohan Singh, announced that India will be reducing its deployment of troops there

SEPTEMBER, 2006: Musharraf and Singh agree to set up an India-Pakistan institutional anti-terrorism mechanism. In Nov, Musharraf also hailed MS Dhoni for his dynamic batting skills

China hits out at US for shooting down spy balloon

F-22 fighter jet fired a missile at it when it was near Myrtle Beach in South Carolina

WASHINGTON

THE US military on Saturday shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon off the Carolina coast after it traversed sensitive military sites across North America. China insisted the flyover was an accident involving a civilian aircraft and threatened repercussions.

President Joe Biden issued the order but had wanted the balloon downed even earlier, on Wednesday. He was advised that the best time for the operation would be when it was over water, US officials said. Military officials determined that bringing it down over land from an altitude of 60,000 feet would pose an undue risk to people on the ground.

China responded that it reserved the right to "take further actions" and criticised the US for "an obvious overreaction and a serious violation of international practice."

In its statement on Sunday, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that "China will resolutely uphold the relevant company's legitimate rights and interests, and at the same time reserving the right to take further actions in response." China's Ministry of Defence echoed the statement later in the day, saying it "reserves the right to take necessary measures to deal with similar situations."

"They successfully took it down and I want to compliment our aviators who did it," Biden said after getting off Air Force One en route to Camp David.

The giant white orb was spotted Saturday morning over the Carolinas as it approached the Atlantic coast. About 2.39 pm EST, an F-22 fighter jet fired a missile at the balloon, puncturing it while it was about 6 nautical miles off the coast near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, senior defence officials said.

In preparation for the operation, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) temporarily closed airspace over the Carolina coast, including the airports in Myrtle Beach and Charleston, South Carolina, and Wilmington, North Carolina. *AP*

SHIRK OFF

It was not me, says Liz Truss; blames system for her failure

LONDON

UK's ex-PM Liz Truss on Sunday made a dramatic attempt at a comeback to frontline politics with an indirect swipe at successor Rishi Sunak's policies.

Truss claims she was never given a "realistic chance" to implement her tax-cutting vision for growth.

In an essay in *The Sunday Telegraph*, Truss admitted she was not "blameless" but argued that her mandate as the Conservative Party leader was not respected and that her premiership was casualty of "left-wing economic establishment."

"I am not claiming to be blameless in what happened but fundamentally, I was not given a realistic chance to enact my policies by a very powerful economic establishment, coupled with a lack of political support," she wrote.

"I wanted to become prime minister to change things, not to manage decline or to preside over our country sliding into stagnation," she writes. "...I believed my policies would have increased growth and therefore reduced debt. Five-year forecasts are treated as accurate predictions and therefore filling the gap becomes the imperative of government policy. As a result, the government is forced to make economically detrimental decisions, such as raising corporation tax, based on uncertain forecasts that may not come to fruition," she said, indirectly referencing the Sunak-led government's policies. Sunak's Business Secretary, Grant Shapps, came out in defence. He said that while Truss had the right priorities, she failed because she did not try to deal with the "big structural issues."

"I noted that she said that they hadn't prepared the ground for these big tax changes," he said. "And I think the truth is...what you've got to do first is deal with the big sort of structural issues. Deal with inflation first, deal with the debt so you're on a downward trajectory. And then you look towards tax cuts." *PTI*

A Ukrainian firefighter smokes as he takes a break following Russian shelling that hit an industrial area in Kherson, Ukraine on Sunday | AP

Will not target Russia with new weapons: Ukraine

KYIV

UKRAINIAN Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov said on Sunday that Kyiv would not use new long-range weapons from the West to strike targets in Russia.

"On Friday, our partners decided to provide us with weapons capable of firing at a distance of 150 kilometres," or around 90 miles, Reznikov told a news conference.

"We always tell our partners that we take an obligation not to use the weapons of foreign partners against the territory of Russia, only against their units in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine for the purpose of deoccupying our land," he said.

In an interview with *Bild am Sonntag* published on Sunday, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy agreed that weapons supplied by the West would not be used to attack Russian territory. Reznikov also said that Kyiv expected a possible Russian offensive later this month.

Meanwhile, five people were injured in Russian rocket attacks on Sunday in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, officials said.

Kharkiv regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said four people were injured when a Russian S-300 missile fell near an apartment block and another was hurt when a missile hit a higher-education building. Local media reports said the building hit was the National Academy for Urban Economy, about 700 metres from the city's central square. Also, in Odessa, workers laboured to connect temporary generators shipped in to try to restore electricity. As of Sunday afternoon, about 280,000 customers remained without power. *Agencies*

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
IBC O&M Division, Rampur(PA). Tq:Sindagi, Dist:Vijayapur.
Ph.No:08488-224328, Email: kbjnleerampur@gmail.com
No: KBJNL/IBC/O&M/Div/PB-2/2022-23/2541 Dated: 02.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement only)

On behalf of Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KBJNL IBC, O&M Division, Rampur, invites bids for the Turn key tender from Eligible contractors for **6 number of - SCP Package** of works amounting to **Rs.300.00 Lakhs** and **3 number of -TSP Package** of works amounting to **Rs.100.00 Lakhs**, The Single cover and Double cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids in Single and Double cover including EMD in e-cash. Contractor can access e-tendering document from **09.02.2023 to 17.02.2023**. Last date for submission of bid is **17.02.2023** at 5.00PM.

The bid will be opened on **21.02.2023** in the office of Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC O&M Division Rampur(PA) at 11.00 AM.

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http;//eproc.karnataka.gov.in/e portal/lines. Seam and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, IBC O&M Division,
Rampur(PA)

ಬಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/835/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿ/2012–23

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 02.02.2023	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	45348640000265	1) M/s. Prerana Labor Contractor Represented by its Proprietor **Mrs. Mona Prasad, 2) Mrs. Mona Prasad, 3) Ms. Kavithri Devi**	20-09-2021	29-08-2022	Rs.44,76,526.00 (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six Only)	20.02.2023 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs. 72,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakh Only)	Rs. 7,20,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	08.03.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	07.03.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Mortgaged Immovable Property: Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property Vacant Plot/ site bearing No.55, Khatha No.12262/148/1/55, measuring to an extent East to West: 15 Mtrs, North to South: 9 Mtrs, totally measuring 1453 Sq.ft., carved in Residentially converted layout approved by (BMRDA) Hoskote Planning Authority dated 28/02/2013 vide HPA/LAO No.21/2012-13, known as "HJC INCITY" is formed in the land bearing Sy.No.148/1 measuring Acre 4.09 Guntas, and remaining composite Acre 15 Guntas, Sy.No.138/2 measuring 2 Acres, Sy.No.138/3 measuring 1 acre 2 Guntas Sy.No.149/1B1 measuring 37 Guntas, Sy.No.149/2 measuring 32 Guntas, totally measuring in whole 10 Acres 15 Guntas of land, situated at Kannurhalli Road East, M V Extension Rural District, Hoskote Town, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and the property being **Bounded on: West by:** 9M Wide Road, **North by:** Site No.54, **South by:** Site No.56, **East by:** Site No.33. **Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property Vacant Plot/site bearing No.56, Khatha No.12263/148/1/56, measuring to an extent East to West: 15 Mtrs, North to South: 9 Mtrs, totally measuring 1453 Sq.ft., carved in Residentially converted layout approved by (BMRDA) Hoskote Planning Authority dated 28/02/2013 vide HPA/LAO No.21/2012-13, known as "HJC INCITY" is formed in the land bearing Sy.No.148/1 measuring Acre 4.09 Guntas, and remaining composite Acre 15 Guntas, Sy.No.138/2 measuring 2 Acres, Sy.No.138/3 measuring 1 acre 2 Guntas Sy.No.149/1B1 measuring 37 Guntas, Sy.No.149/2 measuring 32 Guntas, totally measuring in whole 10 Acres 15 Guntas of land, situated at Kannurhalli Road East, M V Extension Rural District, Hoskote Town, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and the property being **Bounded on: West by:** 9M Wide Road, **North by:** Site No.55, **South by:** Site No.57, **East by:** Site No.32.									
2	32999670000030 & 32999670000129 & 32998950000790	1) M/s. Sri Vinayaka Enterprises, 2) Mr. Srinivas.L, 3) Mrs. Dakshayani. P	20-07-2022	13-10-2022	Rs.9,46,143.74 (Rupees Nine Lakh Forty Six Thousand One Hundred Forty Three And Seventy Four Paisa Only)	20.02.2023 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs. 6,72,000/- (Rupees Six lakh Seventy Two Thousand Only)	Rs.67,200/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Only)	08.03.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	07.03.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Schedule-A: Description of Immoveable Property: All the Peace and Parcel of the Vacant Site Bearing No.18, Assessment No.41, Situated at Hunnigere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No.15, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.19, **South by:** Site No.17, Measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 feet, total measuring 1200 square Feet.									
3	45389420000355	1) Mr. Murali Krishna N. S., 2) Mrs. Nagamma, 3) Mr. Subbaiah	27-04-2022	19-12-2022	Rs.45,57,990.00 (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Only)	20.02.2023 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs. 35,49,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Only)	Rs.3,54,900/- (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	08.03.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	07.03.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Schedule-A: Description of Immoveable Property: All that piece and parcel of the residential flat bearing No.213, in Second Floor, formed in Sy.No.3, building known as "VESTAA LUSHES" Super built up area 1196 Sq.ft. and Undivided share 386 Sq.ft. situated at Gopasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and **Bounded on: East by:** Land belonging to Mr. Narayana Reddy, **West by:** Land belonging to Mr. Gopala Reddy, **North by:** Government Road, **South by:** Land belonging to Srinivasa Reddy.									
4	45349430000899 & 79189430000152	1) Mr. Venkataravana S, 2) Mrs. Pavithra	24-05-2022	12-01-2023	Rs.22,22,542.52 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty Two And Fifty Two Paisa Only)	20.02.2023 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs. 16,96,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Only)	Rs.1,69,600/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Only)	08.03.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	07.03.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Schedule-A: Description of Immoveable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.29 &30, Property No.102P, Khaneshumari No.465, New Khatha No.692 measuring East to West 16 Feet and North to South 40 feet Totally measuring 640 sq.ft. situated at Bannerughatta Village, Bannerugatta Gram Panchayath, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and **Bounded on the: East by:** Same Number property belongings to Shivakumar, **West by:** Remaining portion of same property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private property.									
5	46459440000410	1) R. Chand Pasha, 2) Rajiya Begum S. H	29-04-2022	26-07-2022	Rs.5,85,187.70 (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred Eighty Seven And Seventy Paisa Only)	13.02.2023 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.9,21,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty One Thousand Only)	Rs.92,100/- (Rupees Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred Only)	21.02.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	20.02.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Schedule-A: Description of Immoveable Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.9/1/10, PID No.9/1/10, Sl.No.6/A/7, situated at Tharabahalli Village, Nandagudi Hobali, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. **East by:** Property belongsto Shafee, **West by:** Property belongs to R. Mustaffa, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property belongs to Manjunath. Measuring East to West 24 ½ feet and North to South 75 feet.									
6	45349437320568 & 47519430001802 & 47519430000877	1) Mr. Mubarak Basha, 2) Mrs. Nusrath Banu	31-03-2022	07-11-2022	Rs.29,76,237.87 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Seven And Eighty Seven Paisa Only)	13.02.2023 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.25,92,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Only)	Rs.2,59,200/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Only)	21.02.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	20.02.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Schedule-A: Description of Immoveable Property: All that piece and Parcel of the Property bearing Site No.166, Presently BBMP Limited Katha No.580/166. Situated at Harohalli Village, Yelankahobli measuring East to West 30 Feet North to South 40 Feet Total Measuring 1200 Sq.ft. and **Bounded on: East by:** Sibasmins Properties, **West by:** Muniyappas Properties, **North by:** Ramreddys Property, **South by:** Road.									
7	34019420000123	1) Mr. Thiruvanasiri Nagaraj Jayaprakash, 2) Mrs. T J Pushpa	18-11-2021	03-06-2022	Rs.64,06,970/- (Rupees Sixty Four Lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Only)	13.02.2023 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.36,79,000/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Only)	Rs.3,67,900/- (Rupees Three Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	21.02.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	20.02.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Schedule-A: Description of Immoveable Property: All that piece and parcel of converted land bearing Sy.No.57/5, measuring 1 Acre, Situated at Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore. Item No.1 and No.2 of the Schedule 'A' Property and composite and contiguous properties and are together **Bounded on: East by:** Road and Sy.No.58, **West by:** Sy.No.56 and 82, **North by:** Mylasandra limit, **South by:** Sy.No.57/1.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger)** at the web portal **https://janabank.auctiontiger.net.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Ltd.; Contact Number: 09722778828/ 079-68136854/ 51/ 55/ 56. E-Mail Id's: praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Raghottama A. V. (9916382123) & Ms. Varshini G (7892506261)** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 06.02.2023, Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

₹28,852 cr have been pulled out by foreign investors from Indian equities in Jan, making it the worst outflow in last 7 months

OLD VS NEW: WHICH TAX REGIME TO CHOOSE FROM?

Centre is aiming for the simple tax version, and according to experts, new tax regime might be the preferred choice for those who earn up to ₹7 lakh

MONIKA YADAV @New Delhi

AFTER Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a slew of changes in the new tax regime, which was introduced in the year 2020, many taxpayers are in a fix – whether to choose the new tax regime over the old.

The government officials are claiming that after the budget changes, the new tax regime has become much more attractive for taxpayers and that more than 50% of the taxpayers will shift to the new tax regime over a period of two years.

We talked to some tax experts to get a better sense of both the regimes.

The changes

First, let's brush up your memory with the changes proposed in the new tax regime. Earlier, in the new tax regime, there were six slabs which have now been reduced to five slabs and the basic exemption limit has also been increased to ₹3 lakh from ₹2.5 lakh.

The tax rebate under section 87A has been hiked to taxable income level of ₹7 lakh from ₹5 lakh. The highest surcharge rate has been cut to 25% from 37% under the new system. In addition, standard deduction of ₹50,000 has been introduced from FY24 for salaried people and pensioners.

Also, the basic exemption limit would be the same in both the tax regimes for senior citizens at ₹3 lakh. The cess on income tax amount continues to remain same in both the tax regimes. The cess of 4% will be levied on the income tax amount.

Interestingly, the government has not touched the old tax regime. It will remain the same with three income tax slabs in FY24. Also, the income tax slabs differ for an individual in the old regime as per his or her age and residential status. Those who are below 60 years of age, the basic exemption limit remains the same at ₹2.5 lakh in the old tax system. Meanwhile, for the senior citizens with age above 60 years and below 80 years, the basic exemption limit is ₹3 lakh. For super citizens with age of 80 years and above, the income is exempt upto ₹5 lakh.

BUDGET 2023: CHANGES IN TAX SLAB RATES

GROSS INCOME LEVEL	TAX LIABILITY UNDER OLD REGIME*	TAX LIABILITY UNDER NEW REGIME	TAX LIABILITY UNDER NEW REGIME-PROPOSED**	SAVINGS (NEW PROPOSED VS OLD)	SAVINGS (NEW PROPOSED VS NEW)
	A	B	C	C-A	C-B
600,000	-	23,400	-	-	(23,400)
1,000,000	75,400	78,000	54,600	(20,800)	(23,400)
5,000,000	1,302,600	1,287,000	1,232,400	(70,200)	(54,600)
10,000,000	3,148,860	3,131,700	3,071,640	(77,220)	(60,060)
20,000,000	6,879,990	6,862,050	6,799,260	(80,730)	(62,790)
50,000,000	19,178,250	19,158,750	19,090,500	(87,750)	(68,250)
100,000,000	42,391,362	42,369,990	38,590,500	(3,800,862)	(3,779,490)

Calculations by Deloitte # All taxes are calculated after taking surcharge and education cess; *Assumption- Claiming **80C of INR 1.5L** and Standard deduction of INR **50K;** **Assumption- Claiming Standard deduction of **INR 50K;** All amounts in INR

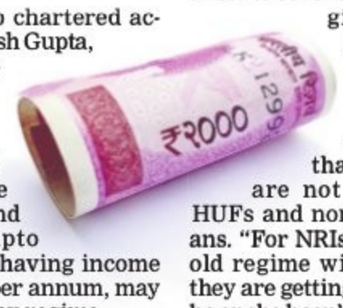
The old vs new

For obvious reasons, people who have just joined the workforce and are earning up to ₹7 lakh per annum will go for the new tax regime, say experts.

"Which regime is useful? Well, this question is like what is the right age to get married. There is no straight answer to the question. It largely depends on the income, investment commitments and position of the taxpayer," said CA Chetan Daga, who is a founder of AdvantEdge Consulting.

"Certainly, a person with an income up to ₹7.5 lakh would opt for the new regime. But as income rises, the personal investment profile, and existing obligations will come into play," Daga added.

If we draw a comparison between both the regimes, then the new tax regime is simpler. The government is also aiming for the simple version going forward. People with income up to ₹7.5 lakh per annum don't need to invest in or contribute towards government-approved tax-saving investment options. They will have more money in their hands, which they can put in investment instruments or other purposes as per their need.



According to chartered accountant Avinash Gupta, managing partner in chartered accountancy firm APT and Co LLP, people who have exemptions and deductions upto ₹3.75 lakh and having income up to ₹15 lakh per annum, may switch to new tax regime.

Chartered accountant Ved Jain, who is a former president of the Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), echoed the same observation.

He said that people with income between ₹7 lakh and ₹ 15 lakh per annum will have to weigh both the tax regimes for tax savings.

Those who have income up to ₹7 lakh and more than ₹15 lakh, the new tax regime will be preferable.

"On ₹15 lakh, tax in the new regime is less by ₹1,12,500. In order to cover this in the old regime, you must have an investment of ₹3,75,000," Jain said. He also clarified that the new slabs are not applicable to HUFs and non-resident Indians. "For NRIs, preferably the old regime will suit them as they are getting exemptions. If he or she hasn't invested in any instruments or done any savings, then the new regime will suit them," stated Jain. Same is with HUF's, he added.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY YOUR MONEY HABITS SHOULD CHANGE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

ATTEMPT TO SIMPLIFY TAX REGIME

The new tax regime means you have to give up the habit of seeking exemptions through savings in insurance, fixed deposits, home loans or tax saving schemes. The effort is to simplify the tax regime, and existing exemptions and deductions make tax management complex.

SOURAV ROY

IT was a whirlwind week. The Union Budget for the financial 2023-24 ticks most boxes right, and it was supposed to lift the animal spirits of businesses and stock markets. But financial markets went into a tizzy as the drama over the Adani Enterprises follow-on offer for equity shares unfolded.

For the first time, there was a divergence in the performance of the NSE Nifty and the BSE Sensex. While the Nifty has two Adani group stocks as constituents, BSE has none. While one Adani stock shed half of the market value over the past five days, the other lost 25%. There are lessons galore.

Despite a price fall in Adani stocks, Adani Enterprises trades at a price-earnings multiple in the high triple digits. Reliance Industries, the biggest refiner and conglomerate, trades at less than 25 times profits. If the short-seller action has created panic, there could be a further correction in the share price of Adani Enterprises.

An important lesson is about diversification. If you invest through a mutual or index fund, you spread your risk across stocks. The Adani episode highlights the downside of putting your eggs in one basket. There is a lot of interest in listed companies that rally. Momentum is generally with such stocks, and you tend to follow everyone else in the buying frenzy. However, a price-earnings multiple of over 100 should always concern you. Finding out the data is no big deal. It is readily available if you search the web. There can be no excuse. While the Adani episode created a buzz in local and international media, regulators worldwide have opened investigations based on the Hindenberg report. Amidst all that frenzy, many of you probably missed the good news.

Budget 2023-24 brought some relief to the middle class and the rich simultaneously. You benefit from an effective cut in the income tax. However, you must move to the new tax regime to take advantage of that tax cut. The government wants you to do so and encourages it through tax incentives. The new tax regime means you have to give up the habit of seeking exemptions through savings in insurance, fixed deposits, home loans or tax saving schemes. The effort is to simplify the tax regime, and existing exemptions and deductions make tax management complex.

For you, that is a change in the way you plan your taxes. You need to let go of a few habits. Many of you are found to save, invest or insure for tax benefits. You must shun that habit and inculcate discipline in your monthly savings and investing. Regularly investing every month through a mutual fund or an index fund will help you build wealth steadily. Running from pillar to post towards the end of the financial year to meet tax saving deadlines will soon be a thing of the past.

The rich among you need to change their habits too. The government has plugged two loopholes used by the rich to generate a tax-free return. The first one was in life insurance policies that guaranteed a return to the rich for a very high annual premium.

The money was tax-free on maturity thus far. The other is about the investment of capital gains from selling the property. There is a limit to how much can be invested to save tax. That should slow down the churn of real estate.

The message from the government is unmistakable. India is a country with credible tax laws. It is not a tax haven.

If you need the government to help you with lower taxes, you must pay taxes regularly and file your returns. The tax relief for the salaried is a timely one in the context of the prevailing inflationary trend over the past two years. While it may not help you to eliminate your difficulties, it gives you some relief from the pain of the price rise. The important task ahead of you is to save, invest or spend the additional savings. While the government may want you to do all three, you must figure out your priorities and then make an appropriate asset allocation.

MONEY-WISE

RIDING MERRY-GO-ROUND RIGHT NOW, RIGHT HERE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

A couple of years ago, I had written a column titled 'Right Now', which was the title of a popular rock song released three decades ago by the music group, Van Halen. The lyrics of this song proposed living for the moment and not being afraid of making a change. So, in this fortnight's column, I propose to take you, my valued readers, on a Merry-go-Round ride .... 'Right Now' across our financial markets.

Right now, the dust seems to be settling on the Union Budget, which too like its predecessors arrived amidst high din, was debated threadbare thereafter by 'talking heads' and then, seems to be fading away from public memory just as quickly.

Right now, the government disinvestment target for the fiscal has been lowered since last year, but still remains ambitious, though no target is ever beyond the realm of possibility. So, what are the chances of it being met to support the mathematics of the budget?

Right now, given the uncertainty floating around, the Indian equity market appears shaky and vulnerable. Market participants of all hues and varieties, including Big Bears, Bulls and Bigger Fools (not mutually exclusive always) are straining themselves trying to justify their market biases. So, is a deep correction round the corner or will the indices simply pause and resume their upward journey?

Right now, the Hindenberg report on the Adani group is still ticking away like a time-bomb that has proven difficult for it to defuse in spite of multiple pitches to try and douse the fire. The group was forced to call off its ambitious mega FPO and from the looks of it, the ripple effect it has had across the stock market has dented the confidence of several participants and more specifically, later entrants. Selective topping up some of one's diversified mutual fund holdings might not be a bad idea for those that believe, like I do, that sunlight eventually follows darkness in the equity market.

Uptick in gold prices?

Right now, there are seasoned market participants doing more than hedging of their equity bets with gold. The price of the precious yellow metal surged post the Ukraine war and retains its froth for now.

Right now, there are seasoned market participants doing more than hedging of their equity bets with gold. The price of the precious yellow metal surged post the Ukraine war and retains its froth for now. And, if the equity markets were to slip sharply, can there be a further uptick in gold prices? Depending on one's answer to this question, one could either top up or simply sit back and let the growth in value happen on its own sans deployment of further capital.

Right now, stay focused on rebalancing your asset allocation and then, like the lyrics of the song this column has been based on suggests, not be afraid of change.

Govt initiates process to ban 138 betting apps with Chinese links

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@New Delhi

IN what could be another crackdown on Chinese apps, the government has decided to ban 138 betting apps and 94 loan lending apps with Chinese links. As per the reports, the government has already initiated to ban these apps on "urgent" and "emergency" basis.

According to an official communication between the two ministries — Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) and Ministry of Home Affairs — the action was initiated after confirming that these apps attract Section 69 of the IT Act as they contain "material which is prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India.

The reason for banning these apps are the Chinese links. As per the reports, almost all of these apps are said to be the brainchild of Chinese nationals who hired Indians and made them directors in the operation.

"After luring desperate individuals into taking on a loan, they jacked up the interest by up to 3,000% annually," the report said.

The report noted that these apps, often displaying predatory behaviour to trap individuals in massive debt, can also be misused as tools for espionage and propaganda, besides posing a security risk to the data of the Indian citizens.

These apps provide a small amount of loans to the people. However, when the debtors were unable to repay the interest or entire loan, individuals representing these apps started harassing those in debt. At many instances, they send them lewd messages, threatening to release their morphed photos and shaming them with messages to their contacts.

The matter came into the spotlight after a spate of suicides, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, by those who opted for such loans or lost money to betting apps.

States such as Telangana, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh as well as central intelligence agencies had then asked the Union home ministry to take action against these apps, sources said.

EXPRESS READ

Tata Power solar cell by Dec-end

New Delhi: Tata Power aims to operationalise its solar cell and module facility being set up in Tamil Nadu by December-end of this year, the company's CEO & MD Praveer Sinha said. In July 2022, Tata Power inked a pact with the TN government to invest ₹3,000 crore.

Emami sees margin expansion

New Delhi, PTI: Homegrown FMCG firm Emami is anticipating a 200-300 basis point expansion year-on-year in its margin in Q4 ending March 2023 due to easing of inflationary pressure on its inputs, a top company official said.

FMCG makers see green shoots

New Delhi, PTI: Major FMCG firms feel the demand slump has bottomed out and there are green shoots of recovery in the rural markets, which has been under stress since the last few quarters. Rural markets were still sluggish in Q3.

'Funds have been provided for PLI schemes'

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE government has provided funds in the budget for the Product-linked incentive (PLI) schemes as per the demands raised by various departments, Finance Secretary TV Somanathan told TNIE while explaining the reasons behind less allocation for PLIs.

The budgeted estimates for the PLI scheme for FY 23 was at ₹1,629 crore while the revised estimates stood at ₹1,663 crore. The budgeted estimates for PLI schemes for FY 24 have been reduced to ₹1,200 crore.

"PLI is a slow process. It's not a new scheme, that's why it wasn't announced in the budget speech. Manufacturers need to produce a certain quantity and earn the incentives under PLI schemes. Whatever the departments asked for has been provided in the budget," Somanathan said.

The government has reduced allocation to PLI schemes in some sectors, while eliminating them completely in a few. For instance, there has been no allocation for the PLI scheme to promote telecom and networking products manufacturing in India in FY24. In FY23, the initial allocation was ₹524 crore but later it was revised to ₹90 crore. However, the finance secretary pointed out that there are sectors, where the allocations have increased manifold. He cited the example of the PLI scheme for automobiles and auto components, where the allocation has been increased from ₹3 crore in FY23 to ₹604 crore in FY24. Meanwhile, in a separate interaction with TNIE, Amitabh Kant, Indian Sherpa of G20, said PLI is meant for a limited period of five years and that's not a solution for India.

"Make India a productively competitive and an efficient economy. You should be the least cost producer in India. There is a need to scrap a lot of rules, regulations and procedures. Your infrastructure turnaround needs to be better. Your labour laws have to be better. All these are very critical things you should benchmark yourself for the best competitive economies in the world," he said.

G20 2023 INDIA | Government of India | 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Karnataka at the Forefront of Defence Manufacturing

Dedication to the Nation of
India's Largest Helicopter Manufacturing Facility
HAL Helicopter Factory, Tumakuru and
Unveiling of Light Utility Helicopter

by

SHRI NARENDRA MODI

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

6th February 2023 | **3:30 PM** | **HAL Helicopter Factory Campus, Biderehalla Kaval, Tumakuru, Karnataka**

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- The Greenfield helicopter factory will become a **one-stop** solution for **all helicopter** requirements of India
- The production of **Light Utility Helicopter** (LUH), **Indian Multi Role Helicopter** (IMRH) and **Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul** of helicopters in the factory will further strengthen the **Indian Defence Forces**
- The factory will produce more than **1,000** helicopters over the next two decades
- Total business generation to the tune of ₹ **four lakh crores**
- Generation of large number of **direct and indirect employment** in the region
- The factory will boost the **helicopter manufacturing** ecosystem in Karnataka and the entire region

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Watch the event LIVE on DD News and DD Chandana

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.

Having corporate office at Kanakia Wall Street, A-Wing, 5th Floor, Unit No.501, 502, 511, 512 Andheri - Kurla Road, Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai, Maharshtra - 400093

POSSESSION NOTICE

Where as

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Fedbank Financial Services Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 24th **November, 2022** and subsequently carried out the paper publication on 28th **November, 2022** calling upon the Borrower, Mortgagor, Co-Borrower(s):-**1 SRI SAI PRASANNA INDANE SERVICES (Borrower) Rep by its Proprietor Mr. Yadavendra Prasad (Deceased), 2. Mrs. Malavika S Prasad Co-Borrower and Legal Heir of deceased Mr. Yadavendra Prasad Proprietor of M/s. Sri Sai Prasanna Indane Services, 3. Mr. Akshay Prasad M Y (Co-Borrower) Co-Borrower and Legal Heir of deceased Mr. Yadavendra Prasad Proprietor of M/s. Sri Sai Prasanna Indane Services, 4. (a) Ms. Akshata Prasad M Y Legal Heir of deceased Mr. Yadavendra Prasad Proprietor of M/s. Sri Sai Prasanna Indane Services, (b) Ms. Aishwarya Prasad M Y Legal Heir of deceased Mr. Yadavendra Prasad Proprietor of M/s. Sri Sai Prasanna Indane Services** to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **Rs.5,81,33,155/- (Rupees Five Crore Eighty One Lakh Thirty Three Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Five Only) against FEDBNGLAP0478335 and Rs.24,70,954/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Four Only) against FEDBNGLAP0485613 as on 21.11.2022**together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all costs charges and incidental expenses etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said demand notice.

The Borrower, Mortgagor and Co-Borrower(s)mentioned hereinabove having failed to repay the above said amount within the specific period, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Mortgagor & Co-Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned Authorised officer has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **02nd February o f the year 2023.**

The Borrower, Mortgagor , Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general is/are hereby cautioned not to deal with the following property and any dealings with the following property will be subject to the charge of Fedbank Financial Services Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.5,81,33,155/- (Rupees Five Crore Eighty One Lakh Thirty Three Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Five Only) against FEDBNGLAP0478335 and Rs.24,70,954/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Four Only) against FEDBNGLAP0485613 as on 21.11.2022.**together withfurther interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all the costs charges and incidental expenses etc.

The borrower's attention is invited to sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Schedule-A

Description of Property(Particulars of the immovable property mortgaged to FFSL)

All that piece and parcel of residential building property consisting Stilt Floor, ground floor, first floor, Second floor, and 3rd floor, including terrace floor, constructed over the residential property bearing BBMP Khatha No.396/1059/1027/24/1/ 45/26/2, Situated at Arekere village, Arekere Sub-Division, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, now within the preview of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, measuring East to West:90Feet, North to South:128feet, and Total extent of 11520sq.ft., the bounded on:

East By : Road, West By :Road,

North By : Road, South By : Private Property.

Property Owned by: Mrs. Malavika S Prasad

Sd/-

Place:- Bangalore
Date:- 04-02-2023

Fedbank Financial Services Ltd
(AuthorizedOfficer)

IDFC First Bank Limited

(erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

IDFC FIRST Bank

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	10052803741	PBB Dynamic Overdraft Secured	1. M/s Elaan Infra 2. K Nagarjun 3. H J Shrunga	30.11.2022	INR 34,26,400.00/-	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Residential Apartments Bearing No. F-0630 On Sixth Floor (7th Floor As Per Sanction Plan) Of Block-f In Building-2 Of 'brigade Northridge" Measuring 1408 Sq. Ft. Of Built Up Area And 352 Sq. Ft. Of Proportionate Share In Common Areas Such As Passage, Lobbies Lifts, Staircase And Other Area Of Common Use And Totally Measuring 1760 Sq. Ft., Of Super Built-up/saleable Area Approximately With Two Covered Car Parking In The Lowe/upper Basement Level And The Apartment. Property Situated At Thirumanahalli Village, Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Banglore North. And Bounded As: **East : Open Towards Open Space In Block-f In Building-2 Of 'brigade Northridge", West : Apartments No. F-0631 In Block-f In Building-2 Of 'brigade Northridge", North : Lift Lobby F-0631 In Block-f In Building-2 Of 'brigade Northridge", South : Open Towards Open Space In Block-f In Building-2 Of 'brigade Northridge"**

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)

Date : 06.02.2023
Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mukunda K R, Aadhaar Number: 9464 1061 4756 S/o Late K. Ramgaswamy Iyengar, residing at Kalkunte Agrahara belonging to Bangalore Rural District, have lost original sale deed dated 19/5/2003, Allotment Letter dated 01/10/2002 and Possession Certificate dated 26/5/2003 etc., related to BDA property number 696, measuring 6.00 m X 9.00 m, located at Anjanapura 10th Block, during commute in the bangalore city, the report of the same has been lodged with the Bengaluru city police on 07/12/2019 vide report number 245049/2019. If found by anyone, I request you to please contact me with in 7 days on the below number. (8123762920)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the Public that, my Clients, **1. SRI.B.M. JAGADISH** Aged about 39 years, S/o. Late. B.L.Mariswamy **2. SMT. SUSHMITHA.R** Aged about 31 years, W/o. . B.M.Jagadish, Both are residing at Flat No.307, B Block, Architha Aithal Arohi Apartment, Kenchenahalli, Sachidananda Nagar, Raja Rajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore -560 098 have intend to purchase the Schedule Property from its Present owner, Sri. **M.S.NANJUNDA MURTHY S/o. M.N.Shivappa**, Aged about 72 years, residing at No. 05, 8th B Cross, Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore-560001. Any person/s, any other legal heirs/ representatives, having any claim, right, title and interest or possession mortgage, hypothecation, lien etc., have got any objection or opposing the above referred transaction whatsoever may lodge his/their objections or claims with supporting documentary evidence /proof to the undersigned within **TEN (10) Days** from the date of this notice/publication, failing which it may be presumed that there are no objections or claims to complete the **SALE TRANSACTION** in favour of my clients. Any objections/ claims received after the lapse of **TEN (10) Days** will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of site bearing No.354, formed by Vishwabharathi House Building Co - operative Society Ltd., Vth Phase of Vishwabharathi Housing Complex Layout, Sachidanandanagar, Halagevaderahalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,Presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.160 Property bearing No 354 PID No.232/245/2, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 50 feet totally measuring 1500 sq.ft., and bounded on:
East by : Site No.355,
West by : Site No.353,
North by : Road,
South by : Site No.377.

L. LAKSHMINARAYANA, B.Com., LLB.,
Advocate, #1462/33, Pipe Line, Vijayanagar
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(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
METROS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER on Rolling Basis

Contract Name	Tender Cum Auction for Licensing of Commercial space at Nehru Park
Contract No	CMRL/BD/SNR/2023/490/04
Documents downloaded from	**06/02/2023** to **06/03/2023** up to **17:00 hrs** through e-tendering website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
Pre-Bid Meeting Date	**14/02/2023 on 11:30 hrs at MetroS -Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035**
Due Date of Bid Submission	**06/03/2023 up to 17:00 hours (IST)**
Date of Bid Opening	**07/03/2023 at 17:05 hours (IST)**

For complete details, please visit e-procurement website: **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. This tender will continue in rolling basis. Prospective bidders are required to periodically check the e-procurement website to know the status** Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned website and will not be published in newspapers.

Tender inviting Authority:
Chief General Manager (P&BD), Chennai Metro Rail Limited, MetroS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600035
Phone - 044-2437 8000 / www.chennaimetrorail.org. E-mail: krishnan.rm@cmrl.in
DIPR/ 759 /TENDER/2023
Chief General Manger (P&BD)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited

"சோதனை கடந்து சாதனைத் தடம் பதித்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.5,24,00,340/- (Rupees Five Crore Twenty Four Lakh Three Hundred and Forty only)** as on **01-02-2023** together with further interest to be charged from **02-02-2023** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the Bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors **No.1) M/s. Seven Hills Enterprises, No.257, Doddanekundi Village, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560037. No.2) Mr. K. Mohan, S/o. Karuppana Goundar, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.3) Mrs. Tamilarasi, W/o. K. Mohan, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.4) Mr. Kaveen Kumar, S/o. K. Mohan, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.5) Mr. Surya, S/o. K. Mohan, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.6) Mr. S.J. Doraiswamy Reddy, S/o. G. Subramanyam Reddy, No.25, Behind Devegowda Petrol Bunk, Chinnapa Naidu Layout, Banasankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085. No.7) M/s. Jalsa, No.25/7, Doddanekundi, K.R. Puruam, Bangalore - 560037. Also at : M/S.Jalsa, No. 25, Next to Grand Mall Outer Ring Road, Marathalli, Bangalore - 560 037. No.8) Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.9) Mr. Lokeshwara Reddy, S/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.10) Ms. Rupa, D/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore -26. No.11) Ms. Kavitha, D/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.12) Mr. Dilip Reddy, S/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.13) Mrs. Vijayakumari, W/o. S.J. Doraiswamy Reddy, No.25, Behind Devegowda Petrol Bunk, Chinnapa Naidu Layout, Banasankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085.**

Note : That our **148 - Bengaluru-Jaya Nagar Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (SWAYAM GRIHA - BUS BR : 501312030017739) dated **10-07-2019** requested by No.2 of you for which No.3 of you stood as Co-obligant and No. 2 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a total amount of **Rs.38,00,000/-** at a ROI of **11.25%** and the outstanding balance as on **01-02-2023 is Rs.38,04,246/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **02-02-2023** till the date of realization.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mrs. Vijayakumari, W/o. S.J. Doraiswamy Reddy)

All that piece and parcel of the RCC Commercial-Cum-Residential Building consist of Ground Floor and 1st Floor property bearing Site No.647 formed by the BDA in Sy.No 3 & 69, BBMP PID No 49-7-152 situated at Gavipuram.Sunkenahalli layout, Bangalore measuring East to West 60 feet, North to South 50 feet and bounded on East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Private Property and South by : Site No.648.

Reserve Price : Rs.3,00,00,000/-
(Rupees Three Crore only)

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Gangadhara Reddy,

All that piece and parcel of RCC Commercial Building consist of Ground Floor and 1st Floor bearing No. 1176/A, Block No. Nil in Rajaji Nagar, Third Stage Extension, Bangalore measuring East to West 32 feet and North to South 36 feet and bounded on East by : Site No. 1176, West by : Road, North by : Road, South by : Site No. 1175.

Reserve Price : Rs.2,15,00,000/-
(Rupees Two Crore Fifteen Lakh only)

Schedule - C : (Property Owned by Mr. K. Mohan, S/o. Karuppana Goundar)

All that piece and parcel of the RCC Residential Building consist of Ground Floor and 1st Floor Property bearing Gramathana House bearing Site No.6, V.P. Khatha No.78, BBMP Municipal No.14, PID No.96-19-14 situated at Cholanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently coming under the BBMP limits measuring East to West 55 feet and North to South 30 feet totally measuring 1,650 square feet and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Property of Ramakrishna Reddy, North by : Property No.5, South by : Property of Kotaiah.

Reserve Price : Rs.1,87,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Lakh only)

Schedule - D : (Property Owned by Mr. K. Mohan, S/o. Karuppana Goundar)

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Plot / Site Property bearing Site No.6, Junjar No.473, Property No.374, formed in Sy. Nos. 40/1, 40/2 and 40/3 situated at Chandapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, presently coming under the Chandapura Gram panchayat limits, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet and Totally measuring 1,200 Square feet and bounded on: East by : Site No. 5, West by : Site No. 7, North by : 25 feet Road, South by : Site No.11.

Reserve Price : Rs.30,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
17-03-2023	**City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Jaya Nagar Branch,** No.126, 33rd Cross, 11th Main, 4th Block, Near A.V.R. Swarna Mahal Signal, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011. Telephone Nos.080-26639771, 080-26639772 Cell Nos. 9343130500, 9341010605.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he /she is bidding for himself /herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Ltd., Bengaluru-Jaya Nagar Branch, No.126, 33rd Cross, 11th Main, 4th Block, Near A.V.R. Swarna Mahal Signal, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.",** on or before **12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone Nos.080-26639771, 080-26639772, Cell Nos. 9343130500, 9341010605. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As- is- where- is" , "As-is-what-is" and "whatever there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an open auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15** days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues) TDS,GST if any, due to Government, Government undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 04-02-2023 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287,
Telephone No. 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

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Household Cooking Stoves Would Now Run on Solar Energy

Inauguration of Indoor Solar Cooking System

By Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Monday, 6th February 2023, Time: 11:30 AM, Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre, Bengaluru

Key Features

- Easy in cooking and maintenance
- Fully Safe
- Runs on both solar energy and electricity
- Saves both time and energy
- Available in single and double burner models
- Facility to cook while charging

CBC 33101/13/0044/2223

For more information, visit https://iocl.com/pages/solarcooker

Tejaswin beats ex-world champ to clinch gold

Indian high jumper Tejaswin Shankar overcame a strong challenge from former world champion Donald Thomas of the Bahamas to win the top position in the New Balance Indoor Grand Prix in Boston. The 24-year-old Delhi-born athlete leapt 2.26 metres as he pushed the 2007 World Championships and 2010 CWG gold medallist to second spot.

INTENT ON NOT LETTING IT SLIP OUT OF THEIR HANDS

Extended sessions during the short camp ahead of opening Test in Nagpur give Dravid and the team a perfect opportunity to work on close-in and slip catching

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

AS the world entered the year 2022, India were busy taking on the hosts South Africa in the high-octane three-match Test series. From thereon, the team travelled across the length and breadth of the globe throughout the year playing bilateral series apart from featuring in the Asia Cup and T20 World Cup. In the process, they played 83 international matches (7 Tests, 30 ODIs and 46 T20Is) till February 1, 2023. And then there is the Indian Premier League played over a little more than two months wherein almost every Indian player featured.

Given the sheer number of matches Indian cricketers play these days, there is hardly any time left for them to hold a camp and work on various aspects of the game. India head coach Rahul Dravid highlighted the issue in a video posted by the Indian cricket board (BCCI) on Twitter ahead of the all-important Border-Gavaskar Trophy starting with the first Test in Nagpur on February 9.

"You don't get time actually to do a camp or you can get an extended period of time where you get to work with players and build up towards the Test series," the former India captain told BCCI.tv speaking on the training sessions at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium, Civil Lines. "Just to be able to get this week has been really exciting for us and we, as coaching staff, have been planning and preparing for this for almost a month or so on what we will do in these four-five days. I'm glad it has all come together really well."

India skipper Rohit Sharma (centre) & coach Rahul Dravid would want to address the fielding woes before the four-match Test series against Australia starts

> *Fielding side of things as well, that has been really important as well. The close-in catching which we think is going to become a really important part of the series.*
>
> Rahul Dravid, India head coach

The two-day closed-door training gave a perfect opportunity to Dravid and his support staff to work on a few key areas, especially the close-in fielding before the team meets the visiting Aussies in the four-Test series to cement their spot in the World Test Championship final. Dravid, who holds the record for most catches in Tests (210 from 164 matches), witnessed India's forgettable fielding firsthand when multiple catches were dropped during the second Test against Bangladesh. Those missed chances almost gave the hosts their maiden Test win before Shreyas Iyer and R Ashwin bailed out the team with their gritty knocks.

What's more worrisome was the fact that one of the team's best fielders, Virat Kohli, dropped four catches in the slip cordon on Day 3 of the match in Mirpur. To be fair to him, a couple of them were quite difficult but given the standards Kohli has set in the field, he is expected to grab all the chances coming his way. Three of those reprieves were given to Litton Das, who went on to score 73 and in the process kept the fight going for his team to level the series. The team management was expected to take note of the problem and the net sessions on Friday and Saturday were aimed at ironing out that flaw. "Fielding side of things as well, that has been really important as well. The close-in catching which we think is going to become a really important part of the series. There's a lot of emphasis and focus on close-in catching, slip fielding, things like that when you are on the road all the time and don't get time to build and work on those things."

After a day's rest on Sunday, the team will move to the VCA Stadium in Jamtha, the venue for the match. They will have an extended session at the stadium again on Monday before being joined by the visitors the day after. Both the teams will train alternately in the morning and afternoon till the eve of the match.

Not among the ones, who could be pleased easily, Dravid wants more. "Even though this is a short one by my standards, I like to have longer camps where we can work with people. But even then, we're happy to get five days or six days here in Nagpur."

The efforts, no matter how short they have been according to Dravid's standards, would have to bear fruits when the series begins as a lot would depend on the first match if Rohit Sharma and Co wish to be one of the two teams playing at The Oval, London come June.

Returning Jadeja set for Oz test

GOMESH S @Chennai

THE gripping of the ball in the left hand at the top of the mark. A short glance around to check the field before walking a few steps to release the ball like he has a thread attached to it. Then repeat it all over again five more times, all in a span of a couple of minutes. That is Ravindra Jadeja at his peak.

The last couple of years, however, hasn't been the same for the all-rounder. Multiple injuries, one after another, meant he was constantly missing matches and series, especially in limited overs. But the biggest blow came during the Asia Cup when he injured his knee in an adventure sport. The cost of it was massive. He had to undergo surgery and was forced to skip the T20 World Cup, where India had to figure out their team balance in his absence, and the Test series in Bangladesh.

But, that is all in the past. In 2023, a rejuvenated Jadeja is back and he wants to mean business. The Ranji Trophy clash against Tamil Nadu at MA Chidambaram Stadium was a perfect example of it. The Saurashtra skipper started off slow with one wicket to show in 24 overs, but finished in his typical style with a 7/53 in 17.1 overs in the second essay. An outing at his IPL den was just what the doctor ordered for him. When asked if he was ready for the Australia challenge after the match, all he had to say was, "Yes, yes, yes. Very much."

While Jadeja has joined the team to roll his arms at Nagpur in the first Test, the road wasn't an easy one. "... the journey to reach here was full of up and downs," Jadeja told BCCI.tv. "Because if you are not playing cricket for five months, it becomes very frustrating and obviously, I was eagerly waiting to get fit as soon as possible so that I can go play for India."

Ravindra Jadeja could play a massive role with the ball

Despite the frustration, the time away from the team after the surgery kept the fire in his belly alive to represent India again. "The period after that (surgery) was pretty difficult because you have to continuously do rehab and training. You had thoughts in your head about your fitness. When you saw the matches on TV, like I was watching the World Cup, I wished that I was there. These small things motivate you to speed up the recovery process," he said.

Through this period, Jadeja had all the help he could get at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. Even when the NCA was closed on Sundays, the physios and trainers used to come and take care of his knee. "The two months after the injury were especially tough because I couldn't go anywhere, I couldn't walk properly. That was a pretty critical time and there my family and friends stood by my side. Whenever I said I was in pain, they (NCA trainers) used to tell me 'Do it for the country, not for yourself'. So that motivated me and I was very happy that they were very serious about my knee and they wanted me to be fit as quickly as possible so that I can go back and play for the team."

Now, all that is behind him. As the series gets underway on February 9, Jadeja will be a part of one the strongest spin trios with his partner-in-crime R Ashwin and the fellow left-arm spinner Axar Patel. While the Australians are preparing for the threat Ashwin poses at Alur, Jadeja, at his full fitness, could be as lethal as anyone. And Thursday, he is going to be ready for them.

SAI, NRAI review preps ahead of crucial events

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THIS year could be a monumental one for many Olympic aspirants. In the lead up to the 2024 Paris Olympics, Indian shooters will be intent on finding their range, especially when the stakes are high and the pressure is mind-numbing. With that in mind, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) are looking to ensure that all the shooters' preparations are carried out in a proper manner to get the best out of them.

With the shooters set to take part in ISSF World Cup (February 17-24) in Cairo, they have been preparing for the same at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range (DKSSR) in New Delhi since February 3 under the watch of foreign coaches and national coaches. "SAI officials had visited the squad hotels on Saturday and also undertook a virtual meeting with coaches and athletes on Sunday, to ascertain their comfort with the facilities provided," a NRAI release on Sunday stated. "At the meeting, the shooters have informed that their stay was comfortable and the quality of food was also good. SAI also offered the shooters to be shifted to the Dr. KSSR hostel, but the shooters have categorically stated that their stay was comfortable at the hotel and that they would continue their accommodation in the hotels provided."

This initiative could be a timely boost for the shooters who have found the Olympic stage to be their kryptonite. It goes without saying that it's extremely hard to conquer at the Olympic stage but the shooters have shown they can rub shoulders with the best with some notable performances in elite competitions like World Cups and World Championships in recent years. Also, the sport has become more popular with many youngsters taking up the sport and dominating the field like never before. However, the shooters have failed miserably in the last two Olympics. That is one key reason why such an initiative is being undertaken.

"While concurring with the views expressed by SAI post the review, the NRAI also stated that this was the first time that the world's best SCAT simulators were being used for every individual athlete to ensure the best possible technical training. World renowned Canadian Sports Psychologist Dr. Pierre Beauchamp, who is also the HPD, and a team of four-five psychologists were also taking care of the mental aspects of the game...," the release stated.

Indian shooters have earned three quotas so far and will have a chance to add more during the Asian Championships and the World Championships later this year. There will be more qualifying events in 2024 as well.

Davis Cup: Wawrinka powers Switzerland

AFP @Paris

STAN WAWRINKA took Switzerland to the Davis Cup Finals group stage on Saturday, winning a rollercoaster deciding clash against Germany, just weeks shy of his 38th birthday. Three-time Grand Slam title winner Wawrinka defeated Daniel Altmaier 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 as his country triumphed 3-2 in their qualifying tie. Former World No 3 Wawrinka, now down at 135 after a long spell rebuilding his career following two foot surgeries, was playing in the tournament for the first time in eight years having made his debut in 2004. By contrast Altmaier, 13 years younger, was making his Davis Cup debut in Trier.

Wawrinka, who turns 38 next month, had lost his singles opener on Friday in straight sets to Alexander Zverev. He was on the losing side again earlier Saturday when he and Dominic Stricker were beaten in the doubles 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-4 by Tim Puetz and Andreas Mies.

USA also entered the group stage of Davis Cup Finals with 4-0 win over Uzbekistan | AP

However, Marc-Andrea Huesler then stunned world number 14 Zverev 6-2, 7-6 (3) to bring Switzerland level at 2-2, setting the stage for Wawrinka's moment in the spotlight. "I'm happy that I won one point and the last one was the most important," said Wawrinka. "We have a great team. They've been building this team for the last few years. I was happy to come back if they needed me."

The United States, who have won the 123-year-old tournament on a record 32 occasions, also booked their place in September's group stage by seeing off Uzbekistan in Tashkent. Experienced doubles pair Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram cantered to a 6-2, 6-4 win over Sanjar Fayziev and Sergey Fomini in just 52 minutes. "I was so excited to see Raj and Austin play today," said US captain David Nainkin whose team were 2-0 up overnight. "They came out really sharp and got the early break in the first set. After that it was like two freight trains, there was no stopping them."

Serbia shrugged off the absence of Novak Djokovic to comfortably defeat a Norway team missing world number four Casper Ruud. Ahead 2-0 after Friday's opening singles in Oslo, Nikola Cacic and Filip Krajinovic saw off Viktor Durasovic and Herman Hoeyeraal 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 for the key point. France, the 10-time champions, made the next round with a win over Hungary.

Ugo Humbert, making his tournament debut this weekend, sealed the tie with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Fabian Marozsan in Tatabanya in the deciding singles. France were given a scare when Hungary surprisingly claimed the doubles rubber as Marozsan and Mate Valkusz defeated Nicolas Mahut and Arthur Rinderknech 6-2, 7-6 (4) before Adrian Mannarino levelled at 2-2 with a straight sets win over Marton Fucsovics.

Pakistan stars moved to safety after explosion near stadium

AGENCIES @Quetta

TOP Pakistani cricketers, including captain Babar Azam and Shahid Afridi, among others, were taken to the safety of the dressing room after a terror attack a few miles down the road where they were playing on Sunday.

An exhibition match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) at the Nawab Akbar Bugti Stadium in Quetta was halted for some time following an explosion in the Police Lines area, which left five people injured. A senior police officer said that rescue work had been completed at the site and the injured had been taken to hospital. The outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on Sunday. It stated that the security officials were targeted in the blast.

The exhibition match between PSL sides Quetta Gladiators and Peshawar Zalmi was organised by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after pressure from Baloch fans that Quetta also get the status of a PSL venue. "As soon as the explosion happened, as a precautionary measure, the match was stopped and players taken to the dressing room for a while. Later, after the green signal, the match resumed," the police official said.

The ground was packed for the match.

EXPRESS READ

Edwards named head coach of Mumbai Indians WPL team

MUMBAI: Former England women's team captain and the second-highest run-getter in women's ODIs and Tests Charlotte Edwards has been appointed head coach of Mumbai Indians for the upcoming Women's Premier League season. India legend Jhulan Goswami has been entrusted with the dual role of team mentor and bowling coach. Former India all-rounder Devieka Palshikaar will be the batting coach, while Trupti Chandgadkar Bhattacharya will be the team manager.

FIR against ex-cricketer Kambli on charge of assaulting wife

MUMBAI: Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against former Indian cricketer Vinod Kambli for allegedly assaulting and abusing his wife in an inebriated state at his home in suburban Bandra, an official said on Sunday. No arrest has been made so far in connection with the alleged incident which took place on Friday, he said. Kambli's wife Andrea in her police complaint alleged that he threw the handle of a cooking pan at her due to which she suffered a head injury, the official from Bandra police station said.

Golfer Aditi puts up dominant display to win top prize in Kenya

NAIROBI: Aditi Ashok turned in one of the most dominating performances on the Ladies European Tour with a nine-shot win at the Magical Kenya Ladies Open. It was the fourth win on the Ladies European Tour (LET) for the 24-year-old Aditi, who now plays mostly on the Ladies PGA in the United States. Aditi also ended a long drought as she last won in Abu Dhabi in November 2017. Her first two titles came in successive starts — at the Hero Women's Indian Open and then the following week in Qatar Ladies Open.

FOOTBALL

Mallorca damage Madrid's title hopes as Asensio misses penalty

Real Madrid's Marco Asensio (right) reacts after missing a penalty against Mallorca at the Son Moix stadium in Palma de Mallorca on Sunday | AP

AFP @Palma

REAL MADRID'S hopes of retaining the La Liga title were dented Sunday as the champions lost 1-0 at Real Mallorca, to remain five points behind leaders Barcelona.

The Catalans host Sevilla later on and can open up an eight point lead after a frustrated Madrid fell short against Javier Aguirre's side, with Marco Asensio missing a penalty against his former club.

Nacho's 13th minute looping header into his own net separated the teams in a hard-fought clash, frequently slowed by various fouls from the hosts.

Amid a constant battle between winger Vinicius Junior and Mallorca's players and supporters, the islanders held off Los Blancos to record an impressive victory. "It was difficult because of the kick-off time, the opponent, it all gets complicated when they go in front," Nacho told Movistar.

"They were lucky with the goal, and we also missed a penalty."

Vinicius suffered 10 fouls and Mallorca committed 29 in total. "I think there's an atmosphere developing around Vinicius that doesn't favour anybody, not the player, not football, not the fans, who in the end get involved with the kid," added Nacho. "Between us all we have to enjoy football which is a beautiful sport — we have to leave controversies and nonsense to one side."

Real Madrid were without goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, hurt during the warm-up, along with the injured Karim Benzema, Eder Militao and Ferland Mendy, among other absentees.

Rodrygo started up front in place of Benzema, while Dani Ceballos and Fede Valverde were given starts in midfield ahead of veterans Toni Kroos and Luka Modric. The match was heated from the start, largely due to historic bad blood between Vinicius and Mallorca.

Mallorca captain Antonio Raillo has criticised the Brazilian winger on multiple occasions for lacking respect towards opponents and said he wouldn't hold him up as an example to his son.

Home fans at the Visit Mallorca Stadium whistled Vinicius when he was on the ball and chanted Raillo's name.

Ancelotti was also frustrated his team were playing in the early afternoon after having faced Valencia on Thursday night and Madrid started sluggishly.

Kane sinks Man City

LONDON: Harry Kane's record-breaking goal helped Tottenham post a big win over Man City in the Premier League here on Sunday. This a massive win for Spurs as they are now one point behind fourth-placed Newcastle. Kane scored in the 15th minute against City to become Tottenham's record goal scorer with 267 goals. Meanwhile, Nottingham Forest beat Leeds United 1-0.

Austrian police said Sunday that five people had been killed in avalanches in the west of the country, after three deaths were reported Saturday despite pleas for caution on ski slopes

A freight train derailment in Ohio near the Pennsylvania state line left a mangled and charred mass of boxcars and flames as authorities launched an investigation and monitored air quality from hazardous chemicals in train

Examining EU ban, price cap on Russian diesel

The goal is to allow Russian diesel to keep flowing to countries like China and India and avoid a price rise that would hurt consumers

A fuel truck drives along a highway in Frankfurt, Germany | AP

ENERGY

FRANKFURT: Europe imposed a ban Sunday on Russian diesel fuel and other refined oil products, slashing energy dependency on Moscow and seeking to further crimp the Kremlin's fossil fuel earnings as punishment for invading Ukraine.

The ban comes along with a price cap agreed by the G7 of allied democracies. The goal is allowing Russian diesel to keep flowing to countries like China and India and avoiding a sudden price rise that would hurt consumers worldwide, while reducing the profits funding Moscow's budget and war.

Here are key facts about the sanctions on Russian oil products:

HOW WILL THE EMBARGO AND PRICE CAP WORK?

European importers have had months since the ban was announced in June to line up new supplies. They have already cut Russia's share of EU imports to 27% in December from more than half before the war began. US suppliers have stepped up shipments to record levels, from 34,000 barrels a day at the start of 2022 to 237,000 barrels per day so far in January, according to S&P Global.

Russia, on the other hand, would have to find new customers. The price cap plays a key role in the embargo: It's designed to keep Russian diesel from disappearing from the global market and causing a price spike for everyone, while still cutting into the income that supports Moscow's military. The cap is enforceable because it bars Western companies that largely control shipping and insurance from handling diesel priced above the limit as it heads to countries like China and India.

The cap was set at $100 per barrel for diesel and other products made from crude, such as jet fuel, in an agreement by the G-7 countries plus the EU and Australia.

The price ceiling is $45 per barrel for other products that are made from crude but trade below the price of oil, such as fuel oil used in power station boilers and industry.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO DIESEL PRICES?

If the cap works as advertised, global diesel flows should reshuffle, with Europe finding new suppliers and Russian diesel finding new customers, without a major loss of supply.

In practice, markets will have to adjust, and there could be a brief spike. For one, tankers would have a longer journey to Europe from the US, Middle East or India than from Russia's Baltic Sea ports, stressing shipping capacity.

WHAT DOES THE PRICE CAP ACCOMPLISH?

The hope is to reproduce the effect of the West's $60-a-barrel price cap on Russian crude oil. Russia has said it won't sell oil to countries observing the limit, but the cap and falling demand from a slowing global economy has meant customers in China, India and elsewhere can buy Russian oil at steep discounts, cutting into the Kremlin's revenue.

The goal is the same with the diesel cap: "It is likely that Russia will have a harder time finding new buyers of its diesel than it did for crude oil and will be forced to accept discounts ...," said Simone Tagliapietra, an energy policy expert.

Delayed ExoMars mission dreams of 2028 launch

SPACE

PARIS: War, budget cuts, a pandemic and a crash: For all its trials, Europe's ExoMars mission might be more deserving of the name Perseverance than NASA's Martian rover.

But the European Space Agency still hopes the mission can launch in 2028 on its long-delayed quest to search for extraterrestrial life on the Red Planet. This time last year, the ESA's Rosalind Franklin rover was all ready for a September launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, planning to catch a ride on a Russian rocket and descend to the Martian surface on a Russian lander. Then Moscow invaded Ukraine in March, and sanctions imposed by the ESA's 22 member states led to Russia pulling out and the mission being suspended.

It was just the latest blow for the hundreds of scientists who have been working on the project for more than two decades. First conceived in 2001, the ambitious programme quickly proved too expensive for Europe, which has still to land a rover on Mars.

The United States' space agency NASA stepped in to fill the funding gap in 2009. But three years later, budget cuts led to NASA pulling out.

Help then came from an unexpected source: Russia's space agency Roscosmos.

EXFILE • WEATHER

Mount Washington experiences record-setting wind chill

An Arctic blast that brought "frostquakes" to parts of the United States saw the country record its lowest ever wind-chill temperature, meteorologists said Saturday

WIND CHILL OF 51 DEGREE CELSIUS IN MAINE

The NWS office in Caribou, Maine, said a wind chill of minus 51 C was recorded in the small town of Frenchville, just south of the border with Canada

HIGHEST PEAK IN NORTHEASTERN U.S.

At almost 1,920 metres, Mount Washington is the highest peak in the northeastern US and is known for having some of the world's worst weather

PREPARING FOR EXTREME COLD

"The dangers of being caught unprepared without shelter from the elements and without proper winter survival gear cannot be stressed enough," the service wrote

AN UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION

The NWS said the chills would be "something northern and eastern Maine has not seen since similar outbreaks in 1982 and 1988."

It warned that frostbite to exposed skin can occur within five minutes in such conditions

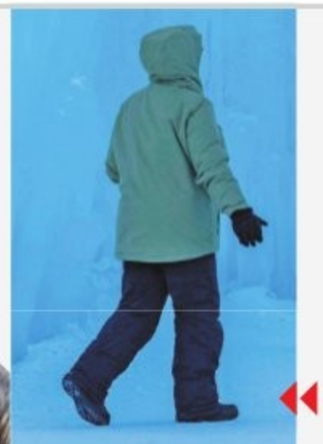
SETTING NEW RECORDS

The service's office in the town of Gray, Maine, said in a tweet that it set a new US record for the lowest wind-chill temperature in the United States

CNN reported that it broke the previous record of minus 76 C set in Alaska. The previous low at Mount Washington was minus 74 C, recorded there in 2004, the Weather Channel said

CODE BLUE

In New York City, a "code blue" regulation was in effect, meaning no homeless shelter could turn anyone anyway



Bundled up people explore the Ice Castles in -1F (-17C) weather in North Woodstock, New Hampshire, on February 4, 2023 | AP

RECORDING -78°

CELSIUS TEMP

Atop Mount Washington in the northeastern state of New Hampshire, the wind-chill factor reached minus 78 degrees Celsius overnight, the National Weather Service (NWS) said

FROSTQUAKES

The NWS office said they had received reports of "frostquakes," also called "cryoseisms," in the region

Just like earthquakes, (they) generate tremors, thundering sensations. These are caused by sudden cracks in frozen soil or underground water when it's very cold

The NWS office wrote on Twitter

Ahead of the blast, it had warned of an "epic, generational Arctic outbreak

Severe conditions in El Salvador's prison

RIGHTS

TECOLUCA: When El Salvador began making mass arrests of people with suspected gang affiliations last year, President Nayib Bukele ordered the construction of what would be the largest prison in Latin America. This week, Bukele rolled out the completed project, a sprawling campus 72 kilometres east of the capital, that could eventually house 40,000 inmates.

Dubbed the Terrorism Confinement Centre, the prison will hold many of the more than 62,000 people authorities have arrested since the government suspended some constitutional rights and pushed an all-out offensive against the gangs last March. The effort enjoys broad support in El Salvador, but has been strongly criticised by human rights organisations and some foreign governments for its lack of due process and other abuses.

Bukele put it in simple terms in a tweet Thursday: "El Salvador has managed to go from being the world's most dangerous country, to the safest country in the Americas. How did we do it? By putting criminals in jail. Is there space? There is now."

It has been a few years since El Salvador held that unenviable distinction—there were 6,656 homicides in 2015—but the country lowered that total to 3,495 homicides last year, the lowest in decades. The government does not include some 120 killings of alleged gang members by authorities in that figure. The last time the government provided the prison population, it was nearly 36,000 in April 2021. The country's 29 prisons were then at 120% of their capacity. In the past 10 months, the government has nearly tripled the population. Public Works Minister Romeo Rodríguez said each cell could hold more than 100 inmates.

Critics of Bukele's strongarm tactics say that in the long term El Salvador will not be able to arrest and jail its way out of its security problems.

"With this prison, the administration of Nayib Bukele in El Salvador shows that it doesn't have clear plans to prevent crime," Carolina Jimenez, president of the Latin America-focused non-governmental organization WOLA, tweeted.

Two sister journalists detained in Iran

FOURTH ESTATE

TEHRAN: Iranian authorities have detained a journalist at a reformist publication, local media reported on Sunday, as her sister, also a journalist, remains in custody after reporting on Mahsa Amini's death.

Iran has been gripped by nationwide protests since the September 16 death in custody of Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd, who had been arrested for an alleged breach of strict dress rules for women.

Elnaz Mohammadi, a reporter for reformist newspaper *Hammihan*, was detained at the Evin prosecutor's office in Tehran after she had gone there "for an explanation", reported *Shargh*, another reformist daily. It was not immediately clear why Mohammadi had been summoned there.

Her sister, Elahe Mohammadi, was arrested on September 29 after reporting for *Hammihan* from Amini's funeral.

The journalist was subsequently charged with "propaganda against the system and conspiracy to act against national security", offences punishable by death.

INSTRUMENT OF PEACE

Swimmers, paddlers and surfers form a circle around a Peruvian national flag as a show of unity and peace, in the waters of Agua Dulce beach in Lima, Peru | AP

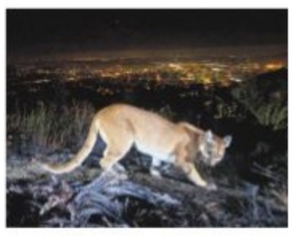
FACT OF THE MATTER

Refugees left in the lurch

MIGRANTS

Some refugees and asylum-seekers in Brussels have been spending months in between the Street of Palaces and the Small Castle—quite literally. Unfortunately, it's not a dream come true at the end of their fearful flight from halfway across the globe. It's a perpetual nightmare. Petit Chateau, which means small castle, is a government reception centre that often does anything but welcome arrivals. The Rue des Palais —street of palaces—has the city's worst squat, where the prevalence of scurvy have come to symbolise how EU's migration policy is failing. They are only 4 km from where EU leaders will hold a summit to deal with migration issues.

Hunt ends for mountain lion



WILDLIFE

California wildlife officials have called off the search for a mountain lion that attacked a 5-year-old boy who was on a hiking trail in rural Northern California, saying there was little chance of capturing the animal. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife said DNA testing confirmed mountain lion was responsible for the attack last Tuesday in San Mateo County, south of San Francisco. But efforts to track down the lion were hampered because investigators have been denied access to property near the attack site. The boy was on the trail and had raced ahead of his mother when the big cat pounced on him and pinned him to the ground.

9 missing after boat capsizes

DISASTER

South Korean coast guard vessels and aircraft on Sunday were searching for nine fishermen who disappeared after their boat capsized off the country's southwestern coast. The coast guard from the Mokpo said that three crew members were rescued by a nearby commercial vessel following the accident late Saturday near Daebichi Island in the sea county of Sinan. Survivors said the boat's engine room had quickly filled with water before the 24-ton vessel tipped over, according to the coast guard. Officials were planning to salvage the boat, but it wasn't known whether the nine missing crew members would be inside. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said seven of the missing were South Korean nationals and the two others were foreigners, but it didn't immediately confirm their nationalities. More than 30 coast guard vessels and at least eight coast guard and military aircraft were searching the area on Sunday afternoon.

ENERGY HOUSE 2.0

UK mega-lab generates weather to test homes of future

INVENTION

SALFORD: The thermometer sinks below zero as a blizzard of fine snow descends on two houses freshly built inside a massive laboratory in northern England.

Despite the icy conditions, the two energy-efficient homes remain cosy and warm due to their use of cutting-edge heating and insulation technology.

Welcome to Energy House 2.0 —a science experiment designed to help the world's housebuilders slash carbon emissions, save energy and tackle climate change.

The project, based in a laboratory resembling a giant warehouse on Salford University campus near the centre of Manchester, opened last month.

Rain, wind, sunshine and snow can be recreated in temperatures ranging from 40 degrees Celsius to -20C, operated from a control centre.

"What we've tried to achieve here is to be able to replicate the weather conditions that would be experienced around 95% of the populated Earth," Professor Will Swan, head of energy house laboratories at the university, said.

The facility, comprising two chambers that can experience different weather at the same time, will test types of housing from all over the world "to understand how we deliver their net-zero and energy-efficient homes", he added.

Simulated snow covers a car and the walls of one of two houses | AFP

The two houses, which are quintessentially British and constructed by firms with UK operations, will remain in place for a few years.

Other builders will then be able to rent space in the lab to put their own properties under the spotlight. The project's first house was built by UK property firm Barratt Developments and French materials giant Saint-Gobain. It is clad with decorative bricks over a frame of wood panels and insulation, with solar panels on the roof.

Scientists are examining the efficiency of several different types of heating systems, including air-source heat pumps. In the living room, a hot-water circuit is located along the bottom of the walls, while further heat is provided via infra-red technology in the moulding and from a wall panel.

Mirrors also act as infra-red radiators while numerous sensors monitor which rooms are in use. Residents will be able to manage the technology via one single control system similar to Amazon's voice-activated Alexa interface. Builders estimate the cutting-edge tech will mean that the energy bill will be just one quarter of what average UK home currently pays, a boon to customers reeling from energy prices.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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06.02.2023
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

The succession

Queen Elizabeth II became the monarch of the United Kingdom on this day in 1952 after King George VI died following a prolonged illness

EARLY LIFE

Elizabeth was the elder daughter of Prince Albert, Duke of York, and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. Her education was supervised by her mother

THE RULE

The Queen was known to favour simplicity in court life and to take a serious and informed interest in government business, aside from the traditional duties

THE PASSING

Britain's longest-serving monarch, Queen Elizabeth II died on Sept 8, 2022 at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, when she was aged 96

Check out the events happening in the city

PG 2

In a conversation with *CE*, badminton ace PV Sindhu speaks about the launch of the second season of the RuPay Prime Volleyball League, watching her father play and Indian women athletes making headlines recently

'IT'S REALLY GOOD TO SEE SPORTS WOMEN GETTING MEDALS FOR THE COUNTRY'

TUNIR BISWAS

BADMINTON ace **PV Sindhu** was in town for the inaugural event of the RuPay Prime Volleyball League. Currently, in its second season, the league kickstarted in the garden city with a match between the defending champions Kolkata Thunderbolts and the hosts Bengaluru Torpedoes on Saturday at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium. Sindhu, who was here to promote the tournament, also partook in a brief and friendly volleyball match with her father, PV Ramana, former international volleyball player and Arjuna awardee.

Sindhu was greatly looking forward to the event and the league, in all its sophomore glory, to begin and of course, her favourite, David Lee was also present. "I've seen him play the last season, but I'm sure he's going to coach really well this season because as a player, he knows what it takes to excel in this sport," says the 27-year-old, who is a two-time Olympic medalist and the 2019 World Champion.

As both of Sindhu's parents have been elite volleyball players, she feels she has a personal interest in the sport. "Since both my parents are volleyball players, maybe that interest was always there for me. I remember when I was really young, I used to watch my dad play. So my interest in this sport might have originated from there even though I chose to play badminton professionally," she shares.

Now that south-side (and pan-Indian) celebrities like Vijay Deverakonda are investing in some of the franchises in the league (Deverakonda co-owns Hyderabad Black Hawks), Sindhu feels this helps promote the sport in the mainstream space. "There are a lot of celebrities who are coming forward and investing. I think it's really good for the sport. At the same time, it motivates the athletes greatly to go to another level," says Sindhu, who is currently in the ninth position in the Badminton World Federation singles ranking.

As a player, Sindhu has frequented Bengaluru many times throughout her illustrious career, and the city has etched its mark in the Badminton ace's memories of glory. "I've been to Bengaluru a lot of times. We used to play matches here when I was under-13, under-16 and under-19. And of course, I remember when I won my senior national title here when I was under-15. I was the youngest player to win it. So, of course, this city is very memorable for me because this is where I started off winning national championships as a senior player. It is a beautiful city, even though I was always busy and didn't have much time to truly explore it," she says.

> *Since both my parents are volleyball players, maybe that interest was always there for me. I remember when I was really young, I used to watch my dad play. So my interest in this sport might have originated from there even though I chose to play badminton professionally*
>
> PV Sindhu, Olympic medalist

Recently, Indian women in sports have been making headlines. The under-19 Indian women's cricket team won the inaugural Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup. And tennis stalwart Sania Mirza reached the finals of the Australia Open, her last grand slam tournament, at the age of 36 with Rohan Bopanna in the mixed doubles category. Sindhu feels it is great to see women athletes in different sports making their mark. "Personally, I haven't faced any challenges or criticism for being a sportswoman. But at the same time back then, when I started, women were just coming up, but I think now there's been a lot of change, where women are doing really well and getting medals for the country, which is wonderful. And not only in badminton but also in different sports like Sania Mirza and Chanu Saikhom Mirabai, among many others," shares Sindhu.

Two Olympic medals and a world championship gold, after achieving so much, what is it that keeps her going? "Another Olympic medal is what I'm looking forward to. But apart from that, I have a couple of immediate goals. This year we have the Asian Games and World Championships coming up. And of course, it's an Olympic qualification year too," Sindhu concludes.

PIC: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Avin Thaliath (@chef_avin), pastry chef and the director of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science And Pastry Arts, dishes out a food-related quiz in this weekly series. Be a real 'whisk' taker and let us know if you have what it bakes. Who knows, your dreams may crumb true.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

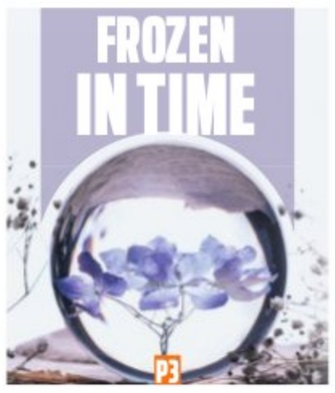
Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a voucher worth ₹1000 from Cafe Natural**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Imarti 2) Sandow halwa 3) Sita bhog

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Shalini Srinet
2) Ganapathy V
3) Prathap VP



CITY READ

Initiatives to support cancer care and research launched

Observing World Cancer Day, HCG Cancer Centre Bengaluru, launched 23 unique initiatives, to improve cancer research and raise the cancer treatment quality in India. In addition to these initiatives, HCG spearheaded the hair donation drive, Strands of Hope, as part of the #BaldAndBold campaign. This was organised in partnership with Bengaluru Biker Saviours. They also organized a walkathon to create awareness of the lifestyle changes to reduce cancer risk. The cancer centre also launched a preventive cancer screening package to enable early diagnosis. The announcement of these initiatives was concluded by the launch of HCG International Centre for Biorepository and Biobanking, under the leadership of Dr Vishal Rao, and Dr Abhishek Mohanty followed by the inauguration of HCG Cancer Registry - Centre for Health Informatics and Data analytics in cancer under the leadership of Dr Vishal Rao & Dr Amritanshu Ram. Padmabushan awardee, Dr G Padmanabhan, was also present on the occasion, along with the doctors and staff.

BEYOND LANGUAGE

Afghani singer and songwriter Abi Safa, who has been living in Himachal Pradesh since the turmoil in his home country, shares how the pain and suffering of Afghani people inspire his songwriting

MONIKA MONALISA

THERE would hardly be anyone, who would not have empathised with the people of Afghanistan since the Taliban took over the capital. But when you meet someone from that land who went through it all, you realise how little our comprehension of their pain is when you match it with their reality.

Singer Abi Safa, who performed at Rhythm of the Earth, Ricky Kej's concert at The Leela Palace, Bengaluru, touched many hearts, even though the lyrics were in Parsi. *Farda*, the song that Safa sang means 'tomorrow' in Parsi. Safa, who originally hails from the northern part of Afghanistan called Mazar-i-Sharif and currently lives in Himachal Pradesh, was forced to flee his country in 2017. "I came to India because of my music. If you ask an artist what music is to them, most of the time, the answer is it's their life. But it's true. I could not live there without music, even though it was becoming tough for me because of extremism. Back in Afghanistan, I used to work with children and their families to create awareness about education. And one of the media I used was my music. But that got me into trouble, so I had to leave my country," says Safa, a self-taught artist.

> *I could not live in Afghanistan without music, even though it was becoming tough for me. I used to work with families to create awareness about education. And one of the mediums I used was my music. But that got me into trouble, so I had to leave my country*
>
> Abi Safa, singer-songwriter

He chose to move to India because he had always watched Hindi cinema and knew Indian culture through films. "I knew the language also a little bit, so that helped me come here and sing," he says. Not just him, even his family is currently scattered across the globe. "One of my brothers lives in Germany, and my mother and sister live in Himachal Pradesh. My father is in Uzbekistan," he adds.

Belonging to an educated family, Safa is thankful to his parents for having given him the exposure he got. "My father was in the army, and he reformed into a police. My mother was a teacher. I have seen her dedicating her life to teaching children. My siblings are also educated. One of my uncles, a self-taught musician like me, had a harmonium. When I was a kid, I remember practising on the harmonium," says.

In music, he was influenced by various artistes whom he grew up listening to. "For example, Afghan singer Ahmed Zahir. He is a legend. And the other singer was Farhad Darya. It used to amaze me how these people are so great even without being professionally trained," says Safa, who did his schooling in Afghanistan and is a graduate in economics.

Music for him comes from various moods. "If I am thinking about my country, I tend to write music about that. For example, *Farda* came from one such mood. When I got the news that the Taliban had taken over the Afghan capital, I was heartbroken. I was thinking of my people and their education, especially the music. I am a musician, and I saw art being controlled by extremists for a few years when I was a kid. Then, the same cycle repeated after 20 years and that made me write the song," he concludes, adding that he met Ricky Kej through a mentorship programme for Refugee artists and now has been touring with him.

PIC: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

BOOK NOOK

Cursed Bunny
by Bora Chung
Translated by Anton Hur

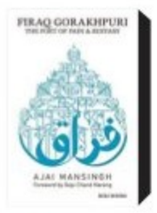
A genre-defying collection of short stories. Blurring the lines between magical realism, horror, and science-fiction, Chung uses elements of the fantastic and surreal to address the horrors and cruelties of patriarchy and capitalism in society.

Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom
by Sanjeev Sanyal

This book tells the story of a number of extraordinary young men and women who were part of India's struggle for freedom. The book is replete with tales of swashbuckling adventure.

Paintra (Hindi)
by Ved Prakash Sharma

Pankaj, a writer, wanted to make a film on his story. However, he collides with a maneuverer. He goes on drowning in the quagmire of oppression and to get out of that, he uses a maneuverer. But does his ploy succeed?



Firaq Gorakhpuri: The Poet Of Pain & Ecstasy (Urdu)
by Ajai Mansingh

In this personalised biography, Firaqs nephew, Ajai Mansingh, tells the compelling tale of the poet's life, inspiration, and struggles?

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Indie Reels

Five stories, one common theme and a zillion emotions packed in one film. *Kabootars* is a film about five modern day love stories dealing with the themes of childhood sweethearts, Arrange marriage, long distance relationship, inter-caste love and dysfunctional marriage.

WHERE: Virtual
WHEN: February 6 onwards
DETAILS: insider.in

ADVENTURE RACE

As part of Adventure Racing World Series – Asia Regional, the Odyssey Adventure Race is coming to the city. Disciplines include mountain biking, trekking, kayaking, and orienteering. Teams must be able to operate in harsh remote environments in all weather conditions.

WHERE: Kanva Reservoir, Chamanahalli **WHEN:** February 6 onwards **DETAILS:** insider.in

SnowBalls

Snow City lets you engage in various activities such as zorbing, basketball, dancing, snow rafting, snow mountain climbing, snowballing, fantasy snow castle making, and much more.

WHERE: Snow city, Jayamahal Main Rd **WHEN:** February 6 onwards **DETAILS:** 78295 50000

Shake That Belly

Introduction to Belly dance is an 8-session course taking you through the origin of belly dance - the nuances, the form's brief history, music, body posture, arm poses & basic movements.

WHERE: Energy Fitness, Cunningham Rd **WHEN:** February 6 onwards **DETAILS:** insider.in

Open Mics

Make Mondays as delightful as Saturdays and lift up your spirits with a healthy dose of laughter. Shankar Chugani will make you realize that guffaws have a mighty power.

WHERE: 21st Amendment Gastrobar, Indiranagar **WHEN:** February 6, 7.30pm **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Karaoke Beats

Welcome to a late night karaoke party in Koramangala where you can buy a redeemable ticket and sing your heart out.

WHERE: Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala **WHEN:** February 6, 8.30pm **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Wine Tour

Indulge in an all-access tour of Rico winery followed by a wine tasting session and unwind with a glass at the tasting room overlooking the vineyards.

WHERE: Rico Park (Winery & Vineyard), Yelahanka **WHEN:** February 6, 11am **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

BLOOM IN BENGALURU

Tabebuia flowers, popularly known as Pink Trumpets and often mistaken for cherry blossoms, warming up the city for the summer ahead | **SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA**

QUICK FIX

CHICKEN PARMESAN

Contributed by **Ranjan Victor**, Chennai

INGREDIENTS

- **Chicken breast piece:** 2
- **Panko:** 300 g
- **Thyme:** 2 Tbsp
- **Mozzarella Cheese:** 1/4 Kg
- **Olive oil:** 1/2 cup
- **Pepper**
- **Corn flour:** 300 g
- **Bread crumbs:** 100 g
- **Parmesan cheese**
- **Tomato ketchup:** 6 Tbsp
- **Butter:** 100 g
- **Salt**
- **Egg:** 1

METHOD

- Beat the egg, salt and pepper in a bowl.
- Spread the corn flour in a plate. In another plate, add bread crumbs, panko, parmesan cheese and thyme. Mix well.
- Take the chicken breast and pound it so that it is nicely thin and even.
- Add a bit of salt and pepper to it on both sides.
- Coat the chicken piece in corn flour. Then dip it in the egg. Coat this completely with the bread crumbs mix.
- Medium heat olive oil in a pan. Fry the chicken piece on low to medium heat.
- Add butter. After 3-4 minutes turn the piece and add some more butter and cook till it is golden brown.
- Place it on a plate. Spread ketchup on top of the chicken. Heat mozzarella cheese and pour it on top of the chicken and serve.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

STANDING SIDE BEND POSE

This is a beginner-level standing pose with a side stretch. It is a variation of Tadasana (Mountain Pose), which is the foundation for most standing poses, with the upper body in a side bend (lateral bend) with the feet grounded keeping them wide apart.

STEPS

- First, align and settle the body in the foundation pose of Prasarita Tadasana Hands On Hips (Standing Wide-Legged Pose Hands On Hips).
- Now, bring the legs a little closer and align the distance between them to hip-width apart.
- Then, raise the right arm above your head, stretching the right side torso on a deep inhale. Now, bend the hip towards the left, softly placing the left palm on the left leg.
- Exhale and stay here with normal breathing for about four to six breaths and feel the shoulder expand sideways.
- Release the pose and recentre with hands on the hips. Moving to the other side of the pose, inhale and stretch the left arm above your head. Bend towards your right, taking the hip sideways.
- Remain in this stretch for about 6 breaths and take the stretch deeper.
- You can repeat this two more times to open the shoulders and the neck.
- Finally release and relax in Dirga Pranayama Tadasana (Three Part Breath Mountain Pose).

BENEFITS

- Stretches the sides, opening the chest and diaphragm muscles.
- Fortifies the muscles surrounding the anterior leg's shin bones, ligaments, tendons and strengthens the core.
- Opens the sides of the torso, elongates the obliques, and opens the back muscles.
- Stretches the lateral psoas muscles and the IT band (iliotibial band).
- Stretches the heart muscles and opens the chest with breath awareness. Improved balance brings focus and concentration.
- Muscular stiffness on the sides and the psoas are relieved. Stimulates the digestive organs by increasing blood supply.
- Helps the liver, and kidneys are well-nurtured.
- Can help address symptoms related to asthma.
- Can be part of senior citizens yoga, to help better breathing.
- It can be used for kids, to help better growth of the spine.

LIMITATIONS

People with injury of the hip joint, ankle, shoulders, have undergone spine, hip, knee and ankle surgery, severe arthritis of the hip, knee joints and ankles, weak body frames and senior citizens, with balancing issues like vertigo, migraine, or high blood pressure should avoid this.

By N Elumalai, PhDscholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

SAUDI VELLAKA (Malayalam)

Twenty-three-year-old Abhilash's dream of a Gulf visa is about to come true but a court summons for a long-pending case throws a wrench in his plans. He must now get to the bottom of a small conflict.

Starring: Vincy Aloshious, Binu Pappu Sminu Sijo
Watch on: SonyLiv

CHHATRIWALI (Hindi)

The movie revolves around Sanya, a chemistry genius, who decides to use her skills to educate the youth on safe sex and bring about a much-needed social change.

Starring: Rakul Preet Singh, Sumeet Vyas
Watch on: ZEE5

BABE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (Punjabi)

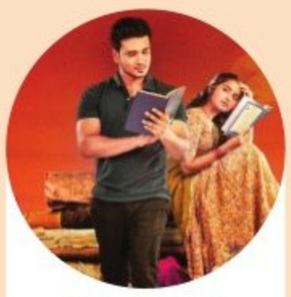
Jaggi and his friends can go to any extent to get rich. As they go from selling innovative undergarments to adopting an old man for his insurance money, life turns out to be a laughter riot.

Starring: Diljit Dosanjh, Sohail Ahmed, Sargun Mehta
Watch on: ZEE5

UUNCHAI (Hindi)

Three retired friends go on a trek to the Everest Base Camp to fulfil their dying friend's last wish. What starts as an adventure soon turns into a personal journey of emotional enlightenment.

Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Parineeti Chopra
Watch on: ZEE5



18 PAGES (Telugu)

A heartbroken Siddhu finds a diary of a young woman, Nandini. Once he realises that the two-year-old diary has only 18 pages, his fascination turns into curiosity. This obsession with finding Nandini's fate takes the story to a whole new level.

Starring: Nikhil Siddharth, Anupama Parameswaran
Watch on: Aha

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

DRIVER JAMUNA (Tamil)

Jamuna, a dedicated cab driver, unwittingly picks up a group of goons. Will she be able to outsmart the goons and save the day, or will she become their next victim?

Starring: Aishwarya Rajesh, Aadukalam Narain
Watch on: Aha

GOODBYE (Hindi)

After a mother's sudden death, chaos and grief collide when four adult siblings return to their traditional father's home for the funeral.

Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Rashmika Mandanna, Neena Gupta
Watch on: Netflix

FOREIGN

LOVE TACTICS (Turkish)

An ad executive and a fashion designer-blogger don't believe in love, so they place a bet to make the other fall head over heels with unusual tactics.

Starring: Demet Özdemir, Şükrü Özyıldız, Deniz Baydar
Watch on: Netflix

ROUTE 10 (Arabic)

When their flight from Riyadh is canceled, a brother and sister go on a risky road trip through the desert to attend their father's wedding in Abu Dhabi.

Starring: Baraa Alem, Fatima Al-Banawi, Abdulmohsen Alnemr
Watch on: Netflix

THE WANDERING EARTH (Mandarin)

A looming collision with Jupiter threatens Earth as humans search for a new star. The planet's fate now lies in the hands of a few unexpected heroes.

Starring: Wu Jing, Qu Chuxiao, Zhao Jinmai
Watch on: Netflix

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT (German)

When 17-year-old Paul joins the Western Front in World War I, his initial excitement is soon shattered by the grim reality of life in the trenches.

Starring: Felix Kammerer, Albrecht Schuch, Aaron Hilmer
Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+Hotstar:	₹199 for 3 months
Zee5:	₹399 for 3 months
Prime Video:	₹179 per month
Netflix:	₹149 per month

FROZEN IN TIME

A city-based jewellery brand which makes pieces from restored dry flowers, has ventured into making vintage paper weights; they were recently on *Shark Tank India Season 2*, and though they didn't get funding, the paperweight went viral

MONIKA MONALISA

WHEN **Supriya Donthi** started a preserved floral art brand Leafy Affair in 2016, with a value of just ₹20,000, she thought it was a passion project, which would hardly turn into a full-fledged business. To the extent that when Donthi reached *Shark Tank (India) Season 2* for further funding, the 'sharks' mentioned the business is doing well for itself and does not need financial support. Even if the city-based entrepreneur didn't get any funding, a particular product from her brand went viral – the paper weight.

The popularity has seen a surge in orders being placed. "It is one of our best selling products after Shark Tank. The orders have increased by 8x," says Donthi about the paperweights that are priced ₹3,000 onwards.

One of the most coveted products now, Donthi says the paper weight was an accidental discovery. "The main hero of the product are the botanicals. We use dandelion flowers in the jewellery. But we learnt how to preserve it and we thought why not put it in a crystal ball. Then in the process, we thought we could also give it a flat base at the bottom and keep it like a stand as a paper weight," says Donthi.

More than consciously planning it out, it was the product of creativity that came during the process of experimentation. "Then it turned out so beautiful that we created paper weights out of other flowers," she adds. Apart from the dandelion ones, in the selective range of paper weight they have ones with daisies, hydrangea, and chrysanthemum.

Six years ago, Donthi left her job as a project manager who found love in entrepreneurship. She began by selling miniature terrarium jewellery after which she started her brand. Now, her clientele includes celebrities like Ranveer Singh, Karan Johar, Shraddha Srinath to name a few.

Shaping the Abstract

French artist Kevin LeFranc, who is in the city for his first art exhibition in India, speaks about his work, creative pursuits in contemporary art and the differences between Bengaluru and Paris' art scene

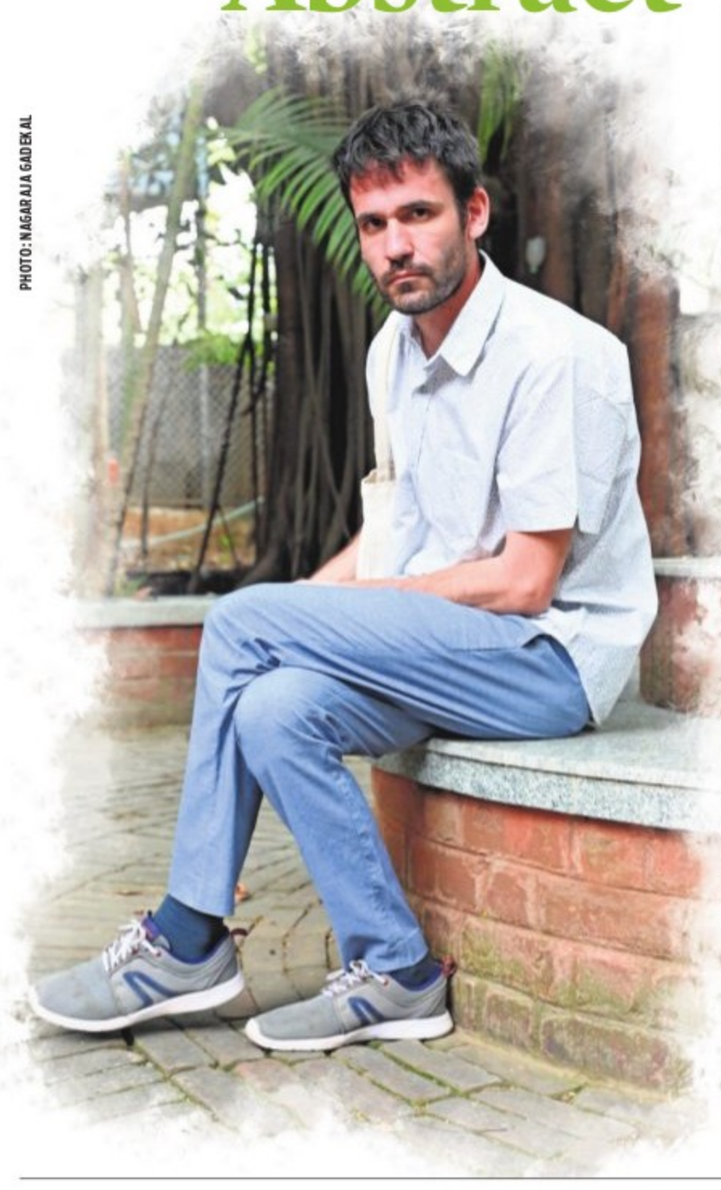


PHOTO: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

TUNIR BISWAS

PARISIAN abstract artist **Kevin Lefranc** is in town for his debut exhibition in India. But even though he is a native of France, he is not a stranger to Bengaluru as his family lives here. His exhibition, Hampi sur Seine, is open to the public at the Alliance Française de Bangalore (AFB) till February 24.

"I am going to display eight artworks. I need to figure out a way, where these eight pieces fit with each other. Paintings react differently in different places," shares Lefranc, who had earlier exhibited his works in Paris and Berlin.

About his current series, Lefranc feels it came about from a primitive need to put a strong shape on the canvas. "The intention was borne from a primitive need to put a strong shape in the middle of the canvas. The process was more organic where I put a mark randomly on the canvas and worked on it as it evolved to take a shape. I did not align it and go for a particular shape but let it be its own thing. But there is an inner order present. Earlier, my work used to be chaotic, and later I went on to do some geometrical work. For this, I wanted to be somewhere in the middle. So, the work is precise, but it's neither geometrical nor chaotic. I don't think I can put it in a category," he says, adding that he took six months to finish this project, but the process of figuring out the angle took a lot longer.

As he has visited this city before, he has interacted with artists here. "I recently met some more last week and had the pleasure of looking at their artwork. The art scene in India and France are quite different. Here the students learn more about the craft and are more attached to it than contemporary art," says Lefranc.

When the art curator of the project first set his eyes on the series, it made him think about the colours and the hanging boulders of the Hampi region, which led to the name of the exhibition. While Lefranc is aware of the aesthetics and the architecture of Hampi, he says that was more the curator's interpretation, and he always welcomes subjective interpretations of his art. "Anyone is free to interpret a painting in their way. I believe that should always be welcomed. But I also feel there is a limit. One time, someone saw my painting and wanted to pay me to use it as a cool bar table. I wasn't okay with it. That is where I draw the line (laughs). But subjective interpretation is necessary. If your art is sending only one message to people, then it is more propaganda than art," concludes Lefranc.

Kevin Lefranc's artworks from the Hampi sur Seine series

Dealing with difficult conversations through a ball game!

@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Netflix Games while limited in its catalogue, has a curiously interesting list of games within it. One of my latest discoveries is "Desta: The Memories Between". Desta is created by Ustwo, who is best known for the game Monument Valley. It is a beautiful puzzle game playable on mobiles/tablets that became very popular all those years back after it appeared once on the show *House of Cards*. Desta is similar visually to Monument Valley and is just as absorbing, but more elaborate in terms of the game's mechanics and story.

Desta is asleep. They are dreaming. In the weird world of Desta's dreams, they must have difficult conversations with people from their past. The surreal dream world challenges Desta. Are they prepared to face their regrets head-on? The dreams simulate turn-based combat through an elaborate game of dodgeball. Several glowing balls are scattered on a different grid in each of the game's levels. Each turn provides Desta to do one of three actions – a move, an attack (throw of the ball), or a special power. Movement is restricted, and all characters have limited health. The goal of each level is to consider the restrictions, and tactically catapult the ball across the field enough times to destroy all the enemies. Each level is a fun puzzle to solve.

But be warned, the game is quite punishing on mistakes. Desta wakes up from their dream and could only choose to relive it. The ball game restarts, they have no memory of the previous dreams, and none of the skills remembered from previous attempts. However, the game provides a different combination of starting powers each time it restarts, which allows the experience to be slightly varied on each replay.

The game also gets relatively easier past a certain threshold. Crossing each level means that Desta has now regained the lost trust of an old family member or friend.

They then join Desta on their challenging journey ahead in the dream, and we now have new powers on our side that helps us cross the next levels.

This casual game is suitable even for beginners. It is currently available to play on a mobile/tablet if you are subscribed to Netflix.

NUGGETS

Award-winning photography studio turns one

Celebrity photographer Amrita Samant's Motherhood and Childhood Photography studio, Mommy Shots by Amrita, celebrated their first anniversary on Feb 4. The celebrations took place at her Bengaluru studio, in the presence of many well known mothers from different walks of life. Some of th names present at the event were actress and content creator Disha Madan, fitness experts, Simrun Chopra and Shwetambari Shetty. "There was so much pushback in 2013 when I started . It was a tabboo to talk about newborns let alone shoot them. We really had to spread the word. Social media also helped in putting the trend in in place," says Samant, has over 20 international awards in the category of motherhood and childhood photography.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHAMMED FASEEULLAH SHAIEFF** R/at No.438, Elite Oyester Clinic Road, Shivaramayya Layout, 1st Stage, 3rd Block, HBR Layout Bengaluru- 560043 have changed my name to **MOHAMMED FASIULLA SHARIF** vide affidavit dated: 13/12/2022 Before Notary **C.Sharada** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAMSHUDDIN** R/at No.53, 2nd Floor, Near Mediscope Hospital, Pillanna Garden 3rd Stage, P & T Colony, Bengaluru-560045 have changed my name to **SHAMSHUDDIN A (SHAMSHUDDIN AMEER)** vide affidavit dated: 04/02/2023 Before Notary **C.Sharada** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PERIMALA KUMAR SINGH,** Spouse of Shashi Bhushan Prasad Singh resident of SMQ 5/6, Akash Vihar Camp, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560037, have changed my name from **PERIMALA KUMAR SINGH** to **PARMILA KUMARI** vide affidavit dated 04 Feb 2023 sworn before notary Vatsala Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUMALATHA MAIYA (New Name), Aged about 41 years, W/o. Mr. N. MANJUNATHA, resident of #8174, Prestige Lake Ridge Gubbalala, Subramanyapura Post, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560061, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from SUMALATHA (Old Name) to SUMALATHA MAIYA (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as SUMALATHA MAIYA (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 04/02/2023, before Notary Mohammed Hussain K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MANOJ ANANTH KAISARE**, S/o. Ananth Kaisare (Late), aged 43 years, Residing at No. 27, 2nd Main, B.M.K. Layout, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026, do hereby declare that **MANOJ** and **MANOJ ANANTH KAISARE** are the names pertains to me only. Henceforth I shall be known and called as **MANOJ ANANTH KAISARE** for all practical purposes and I sign accordingly. Vide affidavit dated 31.1.2023 sworn to before B. Chitra, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JYOTI KONNUR**, Resident of No. 19, C-04, LA-Benita Apartment, 2nd Cross, Munnekolala, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037, have changed my name to **JYOTI MALLIKARJUN CHAULAGI,** vide affidavit dated: 04.02.2023 before notary N. KANCHIVARADARAJU, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KOWSALYA, aged about 55 years Residing at H.No.12, Police Road, Chikpet, Bangalore -560053 have changed my name from **KOWSALYA S.** to **KOWSALYA** and my correct date of birth is **15-12-1968.** vide affidavit Dated 04/02/2023 Sworn before Notary N. Mahesha, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **A.DEEPA** aged about 42 years and W/o.Late.Nagarajan, mother of minor son named SOLAI VAMSHIDHAR KRISHNA DN, aged about 11 years, residing at: No.4 Sapthagiri Nilaya, 14th Main Road, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, VTC:Bangalore North, PO: Vijayanagar, Karnataka 560040. have changed my minor son's name from **SOLAI D N** to **SOLAI VAMSHIDHAR KRISHNA D N.**, vide affidavit dated 03/02/2023 sworn to before M.K.Devaki advocate and notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NASEEMA TAJ KHAN** R/at No.4, Shampur Road, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Near Ambedkar Hospital, Shampur, Bengaluru-560032 have changed my name to **NASEEMA TAJ** vide affidavit dated: 4/2/2023 Before Notary **C.Sharada** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) BHAVANKUMAR DHARMSI, residing at No. 63, Above Dhanalakshmi Glass and plywoods, Banaswadi Main Road, Subbanapalya, Bangalore-560033, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) BHAVANKUMAR DHARMSI** to **(NEW NAME) BHAVANKUMAR** vide affidavit Dated 02/02/2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PUTTARAJAIAH** (Old Name), S/o Roddappa, R/at Hyadalu Village, Mylanahalli Post, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, have changed my name to **H.R. PUTTARAJU,** vide affidavit dated 01-02-2023, before Advocate & Notary Public Government of India, **R. LAKSHMINARAYANA,** Nelamangala No. 222(Old No. 4833)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NANDITA MANOHAR BANGERA (New Name),W/o.MANOHAR BANGERA,resident of No.205, Blue Bell, Esteem Park, Rose Garden Road, Opp. Mini Forest, J.P.Nagar 5th Phase, Bangalore South, Bangalore, J.P. Nagar, Karnataka – 560 078, India, that I have changed my name from MADIWALA NANDITA GUNDAPPA (Old Name) to NANDITA MANOHAR BANGERA (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as NANDITA MANOHAR BANGERA (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 04/02/2023, before Notary Ramesh J Solanki, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HARI VARMA B G,** S/o. Late Gangadhar Varma, Aged about 62 years, Residing at No. 309, 6th 'D' Cross, OMBR Layout, near Chaya Hospital, Banaswadi, Bengaluru - 560 043, do hereby declare that my correct name is **HARI VARMA B G.** That my name has been wrongly mentioned as **HARI VARMA** the A/c holder, in the bank pass book details mentioned at Bank of Baroda, Kasturi Nagar Branch, Bengaluru. Vide affidavit dated 1.2.2023 sworn to before R. Sulakshana, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **MALLIKARJUN CHAULAGI** and **JYOTI MALLIKARJUN CHAULAGI**, Resident of No. 19, C-04, LA-Benita Apartment, 2nd Cross, Munnekolala, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037, have changed our minor son's name from **AKSHIT** to **AKSHIT CHAULAGI,** vide affidavit dated: 04.02.2023 before notary N. KANCHIVARADARAJU, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, N USHA RANI, Residing at No.1, Chandra Nivasa, 11th Cross, Soundarya Layout, Side dahalli, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560073 have changed my name from **LAKSHMI C** to **N USHA RANI** affidavit Dated 05/02/2023 Sworn before Notary V Anjanappa Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I SANJAY SHARMA S/o Mr Ashok Kumar Sharma, resident of House of No 403, Grand Edifice Apartment, Near Toll Plaza, Hoskote, Bengaluru, is presently residing at No 72/1, Military Dairy farm, Opp Esteem Mall, Bellary Road, Banglore -560005. As per birth certificate my son's name is wrongly mentioned as **KABEER DUTT SHARMA,** instead of **KARTIKEYA DUTT SHARMA.** Henceforth, I authenticate my Son's name as **KARTIKEYA DUTT SHARMA** only. Vide affidavit dated 04.02.2023 sworn to before Advocate and Notary K.V Nanjaiah ,Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **REEHAM MOHAMMED SALIM SOFIA** R/at No.1666, Syed Manzil Ground Floor, 2nd Cross, 3rd Block, 1st Stage, Shivaramaiah Layout, HBR Layout, Bengaluru-560043, have changed my name to **REEHAM MOHAMMED SALIM** vide affidavit dated: 04/02/2023 Before Notary **C.Sharada** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) PRADEEPA.M.C, residing at No. 4151, 4th Cross, Near Pipe line, Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560078, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) PRADEEPA.M.C** to **(NEW NAME) PRADEEP.M.C.** vide affidavit Dated 03/02/2023 sworn before Notary K.H.Thimme Gowda, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MURUGAN C,** S/o Chick Puttan, R/o #418/B, Girish Nilaya, Bachappa Garden, Near Government School, Old Baiyappanahalli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560033, Karnataka do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SHANTH RAJ** and **SHANTH MURUGAN** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **MURUGAN .C** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 4th February 2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. PRASANNA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MAHABOOB NADAF**, residing at No. 82/2, Flat No. 003, Silver Pearl, 1st Floor, Kodigehalli Village, Bangalore - 560 092, do hereby declare that I have changed my minor son's name from **WAHID AHMED** to **WAHID AHMED NADAF** vide affidavit dated 04.02.2023 sworn to before K.V. Nanjaiah, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SABEEHA AJMAL**, D/o. Hussain Mohammed Shariff and resident of No. 836/1, 3rd Cross, 9th Main, K.N. Extension, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore - 560 022, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SABEEHA TAJ** to **SABEEHA AJMAL** vide affidavit dated 4.2.2023 sworn to before R. Vishwanath, Advocate & Notary, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SRIDEVI,** Wife of Udupi Katte Rakshith, Aged about 29 years, resident of No.130, 2nd Flr, 5th Cross Next to INDU Lake View Apartment, Sapthagirinagara Layout, Hosakerehalli, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-85 have changed my name from **SRIDEVI** to **SRIDEVI MADHYASTHA,** vide affidavit dtd 04/02/2023 sworn before notary BKR Krishnamurthy, B'lore

For Classified Ads Contact
Mr. Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

SHARAN

TO COLLABORATE WITH ARAVIND KUPLIKAR FOR A SOCIAL DRAMA

The critically acclaimed director's next will go on floors with Tharun Kishore Sudhir onboard as the creative head

Aravind Kuplikar

A SHARADHAA

SHARAN, who recently completed shooting for Navaneeth's *Choo Mantar,* will next begin shooting for director Aravind Kuplikar's upcoming social drama. Aravind made his debut with the critically acclaimed film, *Pukkasate Lifu, Purusotte Ella* (2021), and is now gearing up for his sophomore project. Backed by Basavaraj and Sridhar under the Sridhara Krupa Combines banner, the project will have Tharun Kishore Sudhir on board as the creative head.

An official announcement about the project was made on the occasion of Sharan's birthday, which he celebrates today. "This yet-to-be-titled film revolves around a real incident. It is a political satire, which is based on a social issue set in the geography of Bagalkot of North Karnataka. The plotline of the film takes a reference to the Upper Krishna Project, which resulted in around 20 villages coming under submerging area, and its impact on the people, who owned the agricultural land. This became the fictional backdrop of our storyline," says Aravind.

Aravind shares that Sharan plays an electrician in the film. "We are not touching the genre of comedy that Sharan is known for. There is a serious tone to his character, and the film will have a realistic approach. However, the film is going to be lighthearted with elements of dark humour," says the director, who is planning to begin shooting on February 20. "We will begin shooting in Bengaluru, and will later head to Bagalot in North Karnataka, where the entire subject plot is set."

Sharan

Amrutha Iyengar

Amrutha Iyengar to play the female lead alongside Sharan

Aravind has finalised the first set of artists and has brought on board *Badava Rascal* heroine Amrutha Iyengar. The actor, who has *Abbabba* ready for release, will also be seen in Dhananjay's 25th film, *Hoysala*. "I was looking for a girl with a homely look and felt Amrutha fit the bill. She will be playing the role of a journalist in the film," says the director, who has also finalised Achyuth Kumar, Rangayana Raghu, and Raju Talikote in prominent roles. The yet-to-be-titled project has Advaitha Gurumurthy handling the cinematography and Arjun Janya scoring the music.

Kantara 2 will be a prequel

...says Rishab Shetty, who wants to tell the story about the divinity of the father in *Kantara*, which is one story that was left unexplored in the first instalment

A SHARADHAA

WE had earlier reported that RIshab Shetty and his team were writing a script for *Kantara 2,* which will once again be backed by Hombale FIlms. With speculations doing the rounds that this instalment would be a prequel, Rishab threw light on it at the 100th-day celebrations of the film. He said, "Everyone watched *Kantara 2,* now get ready to watch *Kantara 1.*"

Speaking to *CE*, Rishab shared a few more details about his upcoming project. "A prequel to *Kantara* was something that had flashed in my mind while I was shooting for *Kantara*. However, I took time to work on certain things before I confirmed it. The prequel work is currently underway, and we are doing the required research for the project," says Rishab.

But does a rather complete film like *Kantara* really require a prequel in the first place? "The divinity of the father, which became the highlight of *Kantara*, was the only point that was not explored in *Kantara*. The film discussed agriculture, feudalism, land encroachment, environmental protection issues, human and nature conflict, Shiva's journey., etc. The backstory, the history of *Kantara* has more depth to it, and we are in the midst of digging more details, " says Rishab, adding, "Since we are in the stage of exploring the subject, It's too early to reveal details about the prequel. But we have a lot of challenges at the writing stage. This is going to be done on a vast scale and will be bigger than *Kantara*."

At the event, Rishab recalled his *Kantara* journey by speaking about how regional films like his directorial has become the rage all over India, with versions being released in multiple languages. The filmmaker gave away mementos to the entire cast and crew of *Kantara*, and thanked every person who worked on the film.

Rishab Shetty

English version of *Kantara* to be out on Netflix from March 1

Directed by Rishab Shetty, the film was earlier released in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, and Tulu

CE FEATURES

Kantara, which was originally released in Kannada, became one of the organic pan-Indian films with versions in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, and Tulu being received spectaluraly across the country. The mystery thriller recently completed its 100-day run, and received a blockbuster response upon release on OTT too.

The latest is that the English version of *Kantara* will be out on Netflix on March 1.

Kantara, which is mostly shot in the coastal belt of Karnataka, features Sapthami Gowda as the female lead, and Kishore, Achyuth Kumar, and Pramod Shetty are seen as prominent characters. The film cast also includes Prasad Thuminad, Swaraj Shetty, and Manasi Sudhir. With music by Ajaneesh Loknath and cinematography by Arvind S Kashyap, *Kantara* was backed by Vijay Kiragandur's Hombale Productions.

Pooja Hegde wraps up filming for *KKBKKJ*

CE FEATURES

POOJA Hegde, who will next be seen in Salman Khan's upcoming Eid release, *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan*, has completed filming her portions for the film. The actor took to social media to announce this update about the action entertainer, which is set to hit the screens on April 21.

The Farhad Samji directorial will mark Salman Khan's return to the big screen in a full-fledged role. While he was seen in a pivotal role in *Antim*, Salman Khan's last star vehicle to reach the theatres was *Dabangg 3* (2019). Apart from Radhe, which was a direct-to-OTT release, Salman was also seen in interesting cameos in films across a few languages. Salman Khan was part of *Pathaan* (Hindi), *Godfather* (Telugu), and *Ved* (Marathi).

Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan is the official remake of 2014 Tamil superhit *Veeram,* which starred Ajith and Tamannaah in the lead. The Farhad Samji has an ensemble that includes actors like Venkatesh, Bhumika Chawla, Jagapathi Babu, and Jassie Gill. From the trailer, it is clear that the film is not a scene-by-scene adaptation, and considerable changes have been made to the remake.

Yellowjackets Cast Wraps Season 2 Filming

CE FEATURES

THE cast of *Yellowjackets* has wrapped up filming for the second season of the series that is set in the 90s timeline. Samantha Hanratty, the actor who plays young Misty Quigly in the series, took to Instagram with a photo to share the news.

"Last day on the set of season 2! Extremely grateful to the incredible crew of @yellowjackets so much hard work went into this season and I can't wait for you all to see it! Buzz buzz buzz baby," she shared alongside a photo with a snowy background. (sic)

It is to be noted that the cast and crew completed the filming amidst intense and harsh weather conditions of extreme cold.

Yellowjackets is about a team of high school girl soccer players who become the unlucky survivors of a plane crash deep in the remote northern wilderness. The cast includes Christina Ricci, Lynskey, Tawny Cypress and Juliette Lewis. Season 2 of the drama will include Elijah Wood, Lauren Ambrose and Simone Kessell, along with Sophie Nélisse, Jasmin Savoy Brown, Sophie Thatcher, Samantha Hanratty, Courtney Eaton, Liv Hewson, Steven Krueger, Warren Kole and Kevin Alves.

Benedict Cumberbatch's Netflix series *Eric* rounds out the main cast

CE FEATURES

THE Netflix limited series *Eric* starring Benedict Cumberbatch has filled out its main cast. Cumberbatch will now be joined by Gaby Hoffmann, McKinley Belcher III, Dan Fogler, Clarke Peters, Ivan Morris Howe, Phoebe Nicholls, David Denman, Bamar Kane, Adepero Odyue, Alexis Molnar, and Roberta Colindrez.

According to the official synopsis reported by Variety, the series is set in 1980s' New York. The story follows the search of a father when his nine-year-old son disappears one morning on the way to school. And he couldn't able to cope with the loss of his son. To cope with the sorrow, the father finds solace in his son's drawing of a monster puppet. Cumberbatch plays the father character named Vincent.

Abi Morgan created the series and serves as executive producer. Cumberbatch will executive produce in addition to starring among four others.